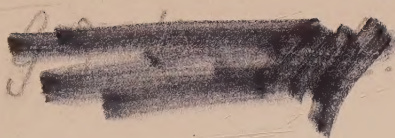




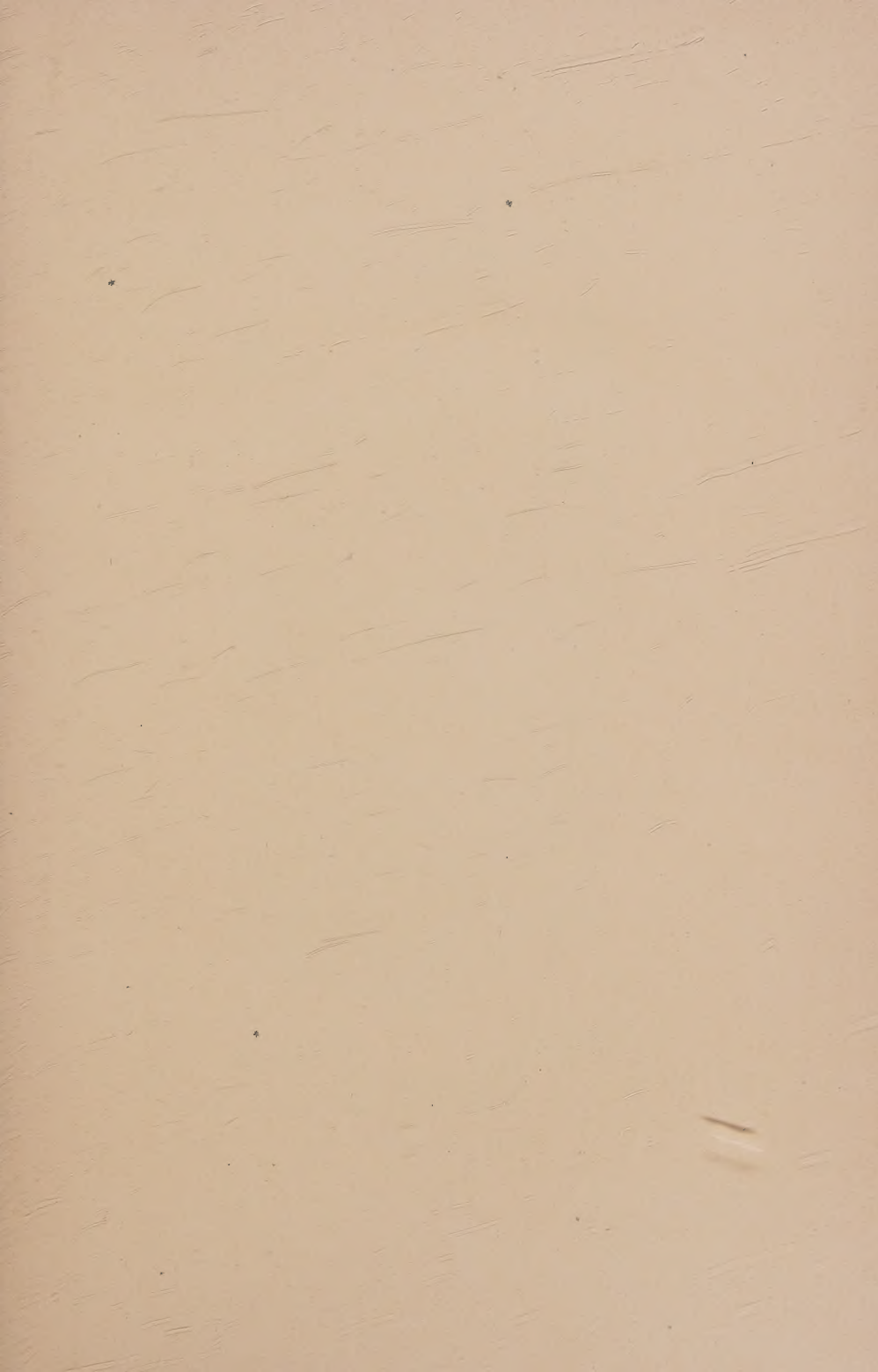
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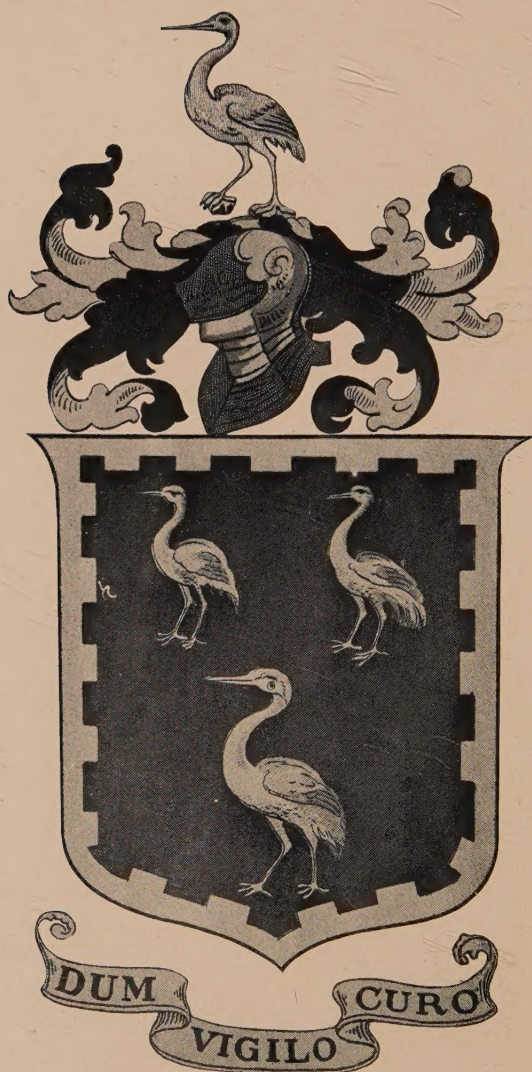
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DISCARD

THE CORRESPONDENCE OF THE
COLONIAL GOVERNORS OF
RHODE ISLAND
1723-1775





CRANSTON COAT OF ARMS

THE CORRESPONDENCE
OF
THE COLONIAL GOVERNORS
OF RHODE ISLAND
1723-1775

Published by the National Society of the
Colonial Dames of America in the State of
Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

EDITED BY
GERTRUDE SELWYN KIMBALL

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOL. I



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AMERICA IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

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Published December, 1902

TO THE MEMORY
OF THOSE HONORED MEN
FROM WHOM HAS COME DOWN A PRECIOUS LEGACY
THESE VOLUMES ARE
Dedicated
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE
BY THE
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE COLONIAL DAMES OF AMERICA
IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND
PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

PREFACE

IN presenting to the public these volumes of the Correspondence of the Colonial Governors of Rhode Island, the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island are fulfilling one purpose for which their Society was founded, namely, "To perpetuate the memory of those honored men whose sacrifices and labors in Colonial times potentially aided in laying the foundations of a great Republic" and "To collect and preserve the records of their sacrifices." With this purpose at heart, the Society has gladly availed itself of the opportunity to place before the general reader these letters, which have been almost inaccessible in the archives of the State. This is done with the hope of increasing in those of the present day the feeling of patriotism and the knowledge of "the sturdy independence of character and love of liberty regulated by law" which animated these heroic ancestors in their sacrifices for the great principles which they exemplified in their lives and for which they contended.

JEANIE LIPPITT WEEDEN,
SARAH PERKINS J. BABCOCK,
HELEN HAZARD BACON,
Committee on Publication.

October 27, 1902.

INTRODUCTION

THE manuscript correspondence of the governors of Rhode Island, from which these documents are copied, is preserved in a series of twenty-eight folio volumes, in the archive-room of the state. They cover the years from 1729 to 1839, and contain a mass of the most varied information, of widely differing degrees of value. It is a matter for regret and astonishment that the official correspondence of the colony of Rhode Island for the sixty-four years antedating 1729 should have completely disappeared.

The aim of these volumes is to present all the available material in this series which lies between 1729 and 1775, and which has not heretofore been printed. The greater part of the letters have been taken from the series just mentioned. Six are copied from a volume of manuscripts in the custody of the state entitled, *Papers Relating to the Old French War, 1755-1761*. Others were found in certain blank-books which had been used for keeping the various accounts current of the colonial administration; or amid bundles of loose papers, of an extremely miscellaneous nature. A few are in a volume of manuscript Orders in Council. Two were taken from the volumes of transcripts from the Public Record Office, which are in the possession of the John Carter Brown Library. Seven were obtained through the courtesy of the librarian of the Rhode Island Historical Society, from manuscripts in the possession of the society. This material consists of letters to and from the colonial governors, together with documents which came into their hands in the form of enclosures.

A considerable number of the letters now in the archives were printed by Mr. John R. Bartlett, in his edition of the *Colonial Records of Rhode Island*, and such letters (with very few exceptions) have been omitted from this collection; but occasionally, a letter of great importance, or one necessary for a proper understanding of other letters, has been reprinted.

The series ends with the close of Governor Wanton's last administration, in 1775, when the revolutionary era may fairly be said to begin in Rhode Island.

It has been thought that the value of the letters would be enhanced by following the spelling and punctuation of the eighteenth century. Whatever may give us the atmosphere of a bygone age is of importance to us, and for this reason it seems well worth our while to preserve the eccentric orthography, as well as the quaint phrases, of the original documents. Great care has been taken to reproduce individual peculiarities of this sort, and it will be seen that the oft-repeated assertion respecting the illiteracy of the early Rhode-Islanders finds occasional illustration in these pages.

An *Appendix* gives a list of those letters printed in the *Colonial Records of Rhode Island*, chronologically arranged.

The colonial governor was at once the representative of the Crown before his colony and of his colony before the Crown; and this held true whether he was appointed to his office by the Crown, or whether he was elected by the people of the colony, — as was the case in Connecticut and Rhode Island in the eighteenth century. Under either alternative the governor was the medium of official intercourse, — in all the colonies he was called upon to answer to the home government for the proceedings of the colonists within his jurisdiction. To him instructions were sent by the Lords of Trade, or by the Secretary of State, as to the course of policy to be adopted by the colony. He was told which forms of development were to be encouraged and which were to be repressed, and he was expected to report at short intervals

to the home government. The revenue officials of the Crown looked to the governor for support in the fulfilment of their duties, and it is only fair to say, in this connection, that to this same fountain-head of authority the Rhode Island smugglers looked, with an assured confidence, the happy result of long experience, that their governor could be relied upon to temper justice with mercy. The governors of the charter colonies — Rhode Island and Connecticut — were elected annually by the people, and instructed by the Assembly, and, naturally, they leaned for support upon their constituents rather than upon the English government.

The cases in which the executive of a popular constituency, the government of whose colony was conducted according to the terms of a charter, would have occasion to consult the Plantation Office would be few in comparison with those arising in a Crown colony. The correspondence of the Rhode Island governors shows an almost complete absence of that atmosphere of local political intrigue which so constantly recurs in the despatches of the governors of New York and Pennsylvania. The Ward-Hopkins feud, which for years divided families and embittered neighbors, made no impression upon the official correspondence with the mother country.

The letters of the Rhode Island governors, then, deal almost entirely with what may be called the external relations of the colony. In matters concerning two or more colonies, for instance, were the subject of discussion boundaries, or military levies, or rights of jurisdiction, each party concerned hastened to lay before the Lords of Trade the claims of his colony to consideration. Or, did some special feature of the colonial administration attract attention in England, special inquiries on that subject were made of the colonial governor.

While the governor was the channel of communication, in Rhode Island the ordinary course of procedure was this. A committee was appointed by the General Assembly to draw

up a letter embodying the facts relating to some subject of interest or importance. The letter was then presented to the Assembly in the form of a report; a vote of approval, or disapproval, was passed, and the governor was instructed to write accordingly. For example, in the sessions of October, 1744, it was voted that "Whereas, the committee appointed to prepare the draught of a letter of instructions to be sent to the agent of this colony, in Great Britain, for him to oppose the taking away our charter privileges, did present the same for the consideration of this Assembly; the said draught be, and it is hereby accepted and approved of, and that three fair copies thereof, be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and sent in three different vessels, to the said agent, as soon as may be."¹

It will be here observed that the correspondence of the colonial governor with the Plantation Office was not always a direct personal communication. Often it was so, but frequently — and more frequently in the later period of colonial existence — the observations of the governor were addressed to the colonial agent in London, and by him brought to the attention of the Lords of Trade, or of the Lords of the Treasury, or of prominent members of Parliament, as best befitted the occasion. The agent acted with the governor as a medium of intercourse with the home government. He was accountable to the colony Assembly, by whom he was formally accredited, and from whom he received a somewhat precarious and intermittent salary in return for his services. In the correspondence of the Governor and Company of Rhode Island with the successive colonial agents at London we have an interesting aspect of our colonial history, which has never yet been adequately worked out, and the historical importance of which is always underestimated, and that is,

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 97, and the Assembly's letter on p. 284 of this volume. Other instances may be found in *Col. Rec.*, V. 157, 180, 190, 278, 282-284, and with equal frequency throughout the years covered by this volume.

the influence of English life and thought and politics — in a word, of English contemporary history — upon the history of the colonies. This influence was undoubtedly very great. Because we have naturally and inevitably studied the military aspects of our history more thoroughly than its institutional, economic, or social sides, therefore the influence which England exerted upon American history embodies itself to our minds in the antagonistic guise of a tax upon tea, or a series of Navigation Acts. But there was another sort of influence exerted by England, — one which is not to be found in the statute-books, an influence exerted for the most part unobtrusively and indirectly, and yet one which bore an important share in moulding and developing the American type of the Anglo-Saxon race. English precedent and example were all-powerful with the American colonist. The traditions of the Atlantic seaboard were those of England, whether the colonist raised his voice for civic freedom, or anathematized the hereditary enemies of his race. Richard Partridge, writing against the Sugar Act of 1733, "because of the levying a Subsidy upon a Free People without their Knowledge [and] agst. their consent, who have the libertys and Imminitys granted them [of] Natural born Subjects, and when they have enough to do to raise Taxes for their own Support,"¹ presents the good old English point of view no less surely than does Major Samuel Angell of the Rhode Island militia, when he writes to Governor Hopkins of the alleged atrocities committed by the French at Oswego, "if Such Usage Wont Rais the Sperrits and Warm the Blood of Old Olivers Sons I know not What Will."² The colonist received alike his political creed and his household furniture, his library and the fashion of his garments, from London. The very statutes of the colonial assembly speak of England as "home."³ Communication with the mother country,

¹ See letter of February 28, 1733.

² See letter of September 5, 1756.

³ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 60, 117.

though slow, was continuous. Especially was this true of a seafaring population like that of Rhode Island, many of whose wealthy merchants had crossed the Atlantic in their own good ships. English protection was given and received as a matter of course. English supervision of the details of colonial life was, on the whole, far-reaching, thorough, and beneficent.

The governors of the colonies were — as our letters testify — the most important channel of communication with England. Their information from home presented two points of view. First, that of the Lords of Trade, upon whom devolved the business of colonial administration. This body had in its custody all the records, grants, and papers relating to the colonies. The Lords were required to ascertain what were the principal products and industries, to exact frequent reports from the various governors, to keep the run of desirable incumbents for colonial offices, to be informed as to the action of the colonial Assemblies, and to give ear to complaints from any source. Governors were instructed to correspond both with the Lords of Trade and with one of the principal secretaries of state; and although this procedure was changed for a short time (1752-1766), it was to these officials that the governors usually wrote during the later colonial period. That this correspondence was maintained on both sides with unfailing regularity is notoriously *not* the case. Many men of distinction served on the Commission for Trade and Plantations, and many served faithfully and well. On the other hand — and especially during Walpole's long ascendancy¹ — there intervened periods of what Burke described as "salutary neglect." It is said that the Duke of Newcastle, when Secretary of State, had a closet full of despatches from American governors which had lain unopened for years, and the wits of a later generation declared that George Grenville lost America be-

¹ From 1721 to 1742.

cause he was so foolish as to read the American despatches.

The second point of view introduced to the colonial governor was that of the agent who represented the colony's interests at London. His position demanded that the agent should be a man of affairs, of experience and judgment, possessing common sense, discretion, and tact, — alive to the needs of his colony, yet not offensively importunate to those in the great world whose interest he should find it necessary to secure. It is evident that the charter colonies stood in especial need of such an intermediary. The conditions of their government forbade that there should be any personal influence exerted by their executive upon the official world of London. Yet never has there been a time when personal influence counted for so much in English political life as in the first three quarters of the eighteenth century. The royal governor, the appointee of the Crown, had, necessarily, a more or less powerful coterie of friends in England. For the charter governments, such friends must be acquired and maintained by the persistent efforts of the colonial agent.

It will be found that a large proportion of the letters here printed are those of the two agents for Rhode Island, Richard Partridge and Joseph Sherwood, who served her during this period. Both these men were members of the Society of Friends, as were many prosperous and influential Rhode Islanders. Partridge was the son of Lieutenant-Governor William Partridge of New Hampshire, who was a man of considerable enterprise and dexterity. He was put forward by the popular party in that province to act against Lieutenant-Governor Usher, who had been appointed in the interest of the heirs of the Mason, or Allen, claim. "Partridge was," says Belknap, in his *History of New Hampshire*, "a native of Portsmouth, a shipwright, of an extraordinary mechanical genius, of a politic turn of mind, and a popular man."¹ His

¹ Vol. I. 297.

commission as lieutenant-governor was obtained by the interest of Sir Henry Ashurst, and was dated June 6, 1696. We also hear of him in quite another connection. In 1696 the Lords of Trade appointed four commissioners to investigate the conditions of the timber supply and naval stores which New England might be expected to produce, and to encourage the colonists to foster such an industry. The two commissioners appointed on behalf of the colonies were William Partridge and Robert Lamb, who were recommended by Sir Henry Ashurst. They were to "introduce trade with New England in whatever naval materials that province could produce fit for the use of the royal navy." It is certain that Partridge made a very good profit for himself as well as for the colonies out of the timber trade, and even had the temerity to send his masts to Portugal. Lord Bellomont wrote home, in 1700, in a state of intense indignation, that Partridge had "openly boasted of a voyage by which an outlay of less than £300 netted for him £1600 at Lisbon, and that he had set all the country agog." Partridge protested that his acts were misrepresented, and that he only sent to Portugal such inferior cargoes as were not good enough for the Royal Navy; and it is probable that he was backed by friends at court, since the Lords of Trade allowed his ships to pass.¹ It was probably through the interest of his London friends that Governor Partridge² established his son Richard as a London merchant. His daughter Mary mar-

¹ This account is taken from *J. H. U. Studies*, extra volume XVII., "Industrial Experiments in the British Colonies of North America," by Eleanor L. Lord.

² An inscription on a monument in the burying-ground of the first parish in Newbury states that "the very Honorable William Partridge Esqr sustained the government of New Hampshire for several years and departed this life the 3d of Jan. 1728, in the 75th year of his age." He probably moved to Newbury about 1715, as he was received into the First Church in that year. According to the entry in his family Bible, his son Richard was born on "the 3^d day of Dec. 1681 at ½ past 3 P. M." *Hist. and Gen. Reg.*, XIII. 265.

ried Governor Jonathan Belcher of Massachusetts, himself a bit of a courtier, and a warm friend of Richard Partridge. It was due to his brother-in-law's exertion among the Quakers of Yorkshire (so ran the story) that the money for Belcher's commission as Governor of New Jersey was forthcoming, in later years.¹ In the June sessions of 1715 the Assembly of Rhode Island took into consideration "the necessity there is for this colony to impower an agent in England, to transact for this colony all their concerns, which they have beyond seas, in Great Britain, &c., and the damage that hath accrued to this colony for want thereof ; " whereupon the Assembly enacted " that Mr. Richard Partridge, of London, in Great Britain, &c. be empowered as an agent from this colony, to represent this colony before the King and council, or otherwise, as the affairs of this colony shall require ; and to be allowed for his salary, for the performance of what is needful in the premises, £40 per annum, during his officiating in the said capacity." ²

Partridge held this appointment until his death, in 1759. At times during these years he represented Connecticut and New Jersey, as well as Rhode Island.

Through his letters and those of his successor, Sherwood, a London attorney, the governors are informed of the details of English political life, the town-talk of London, the ups and downs of party politics, the personal disposition and temper of the leading men of affairs, the drift of public opinion, the relations of the Continental powers to one another and to England. Were one to judge of Partridge's standing in the official world of London from his own letters, he would seem to have been a man of discretion and good sense, who gave great attention to detail, and was possessed of a certain tact which suggests his father's "politic turn of mind," and which carried him into a sort of intimacy with the under-officials of the great departments of state.

¹ See *Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, 6 ser., VI., preface.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 187.

We find him securing legal advice for the colony,¹ and offering shrewd and timely suggestions as to the policy to be observed by the colonial government.² He assures the governor and Assembly of his untiring zeal for their interests. He drops a word of warning now and then. Not infrequently he adopts a tone of instruction and remonstrance which savors of peremptoriness toward the traders and farmers across the sea.³ Communication was slow and difficult; indeed, most letters were written in duplicate. Under these circumstances the success with which the colony's business was conducted depended largely upon the personal abilities of the agent. His powers were necessarily elastic. The letter of agency issued to Sherwood in 1759 purports to "enable him to transact perform and finish all such Businesses of the said Colony as may be committed to him." Both Partridge and Sherwood frequently ask to be instructed respecting the course of action desired by the Assembly, and carefully disclaim responsibility⁴ in the colony's affairs. On the other hand, we find throughout the Records of Assembly resolutions appointing a committee to draw up instructions for the agent,⁵ to whom are sent pressing solicitations that he should urgently forward the colony's interests.⁶

Services of particular importance were felt to deserve special remuneration. The agent's salary was not munificent, and further, would seem to have been usually in arrears. Partridge writes, in 1741, and sends his account with the colony, showing a balance of £213 in his favor, which he hopes "will be remitted in due time, with a further Supply

¹ *E. g.*, letters of July 10, 1732; 4th mo. 29, 1734; and December 31, 1736.

² See letters of February 4, 1732, and 3 mo. 28, and July 28, 1743.

³ See letters of July 14, 1742; May 8, 1744; February 6, 1745.

⁴ See letters of May 2, 1740; May 20, 1748; June 8, 1763.

⁵ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 79, 93, 97.

⁶ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VI. 322, 411, 433, 463.

to enable me to prosecute the Affairs of the Government and which will be very acceptable to me ;”¹ and again in 1744, respecting an obnoxious bill before Parliament, he writes for instructions “together with Suitable Remittances, for its pittty the Cause sho^d be Starved. It being now a Considerable time since I have received anything from Rhode Island.”² On June 15, when the termination of the long-vexed question of the Massachusetts boundary seemed to be actually in sight, Partridge refers to an assurance made him nine years earlier “of the Assemblys Benevolence when the Boundary Cause was over,” and leaves the sequel “to their Generosity.”

This “Boundary Cause” absorbed much of Partridge’s time and attention from the first appeal to the King in Council, in 1734, down to the final decision, in 1746. The dispute was a legacy from the times of the Plymouth Colony, and was involved in unavoidable confusion, arising from obscurely worded grants, framed by men whose notions of the territory they were parcelling out were of the vaguest possible description. It was impossible to lay down definite lines of demarcation according to the terms of the charters. One wonders, not that there were boundary disputes, but that the conflicting claims were ever adjusted. There were, however, practical standards of adjustment. The sturdy New England settlers who took up the land soon came to regard possession and immunity from taxes as the two determining conditions of their allegiance. There grew up along the disputed territory of the Attleborough gore a lawless population, only too ready to resort to intimidation and violence under the cover of a disputed right of jurisdiction.³ Each deed of violence brought reprisals, and the northeastern corner of the colony became a veritable debatable land.

In 1733 the Rhode Island Assembly voted to petition the

¹ See letter of May 15, 1741.

² See letter of May 8, 1744.

³ See Jonathan Draper’s *Deposition*, March 5, 1734, p. 50.

King for a settlement of the dispute. The claim set forth was to the gore already mentioned, and to a boundary three miles to the east of Narragansett Bay, according to the terms of the charter. The result was that commissioners from New York, New Jersey, and Nova Scotia were appointed, in 1741, to hear the case and to decide the points at issue.¹ They gave Rhode Island the gore, but only a portion of the territory east of Narragansett Bay which she had claimed. The Massachusetts claims were set entirely on one side. Both colonies appealed from the decision: Rhode Island because she hoped for more territory on the east, and Massachusetts, from the decision in every particular. After two years of hearings and rehearings before the Plantation Committee of the Privy Council, the decision of the commission was confirmed.² In the February following, Massachusetts petitioned for a rehearing, and Partridge immediately filed a counter-petition to prevent this "Fraudulent and Clandestine Measure." The rehearing was denied, and in May, 1746, Partridge writes to Rhode Island that at length the Order in Council, confirming the judgment of 1741, is obtained. But there was still a long while to wait before the patient agent received his "handsom Gratuity," promised in 1734.³ Sixteen years later (in August, 1750) he writes Governor Greene that he charges £300 for his "Extraordinary Trouble in the Boundary Affair for what the Gov^r. then for the time being gave me Expectation I should be considered in, and which I hope the Colony will Judge but reasonable." Throughout the letters of Partridge and of Sherwood, we find almost complete unanimity of feeling between them and the colonial government. Remonstrances on the lack of remittances occur. Sherwood seems to have been hardly judged for his

¹ See Report of the Lords of Trade, December 21, 1738. Also letters of Partridge, June 29, December 20, 1734; January 29, 1735; November 3, 1738, etc.

² See letters of June 15 and December 11, 1744.

³ See letter of December 20, 1734.

perfectly unavoidable failure to secure a share of the parliamentary grant of 1756 for Rhode Island. These matters were but incidental. Where policy was in question, the agent and the colony felt that their interests were one. If the agent met with opposition, it came from other colonies or from the crown officials. He had no thrusts from a crown governor to parry. Like himself, the governor feared only the Assembly. A perusal of the agents' letters will show their care for the colony's interests and their sympathy with the difficulties which she encountered; while they endeavor to bring before their constituents the point of view of the London official circles, and the necessity of combining accuracy, discretion, formality, and untiring diplomacy in dealing with the great personages of court and state.

We turn now to the agents' home correspondents. The eighteenth century was in Rhode Island — as in all the colonies — a period of political growth and development. Before its close the fringe of straggling villages and townships lining the shores of Narragansett Bay had grown into a community which recognized the fact that its members had common interests and a common life.

There were certain factors contributing to such a development as this in all the plantations of the Atlantic seaboard. In the experience of Rhode Island there were, besides these, local causes and circumstances which helped to determine her course of political activity as a colony, and have since been conspicuous in shaping her course as a state. The unconventionality, verging on lawlessness, of the early settlers of Rhode Island has become an historical proverb. Precisely as the eighteenth century was about to open, Lord Bellomont described their government as "the most irregular and illegal . . . that ever any English government was,"¹ and that reputation it long maintained. Each man did that which was right in his own eyes, and guided his course by

¹ W. E. Foster, *Stephen Hopkins*, I. 3, note.

the sense of individual responsibility which lives and lets live, even to the point of becoming individual irresponsibility. The force of reason and of long-established custom will not guide a community of men who are thus self-sufficient. They will insist upon maintaining and asserting their right of individual action. They will prefer to act as units, and it is the man of strong personality, or extraordinary audacity, who will attract them and become their leader, never the man who simply embodies a principle, or appeals to the law of the fathers. If, with this thought in mind, we look into the history of the seventy-five years which preceded the Revolution for the individuals who influenced the political life of Rhode Island, we shall find not a few of them among her governors.

In this roll-call the name of Samuel Cranston meets us upon the threshold of the eighteenth century. Chosen to be governor of the colony by twenty-eight successive reëlections (1698-1727), his administration may be fairly looked upon as "the first of that series of influences which made the eighteenth century in Rhode Island a period of development."¹ Unfortunately none of Governor Cranston's correspondence is now in the archives of the state of Rhode Island. Eight letters bearing his signature are published in the fourth volume of the *Colonial Records of Rhode Island*. One of these is copied from *The New York Colonial MSS.*, LIII. 104, and the others are taken from transcripts of the originals in the Public Record Office.²

One of the perplexing problems of Governor Cranston's time was the definition of the boundary line between Rhode Island and Connecticut. A summary of the case for Rhode Island will be found in the somewhat lengthy letter with which the present volume begins. This document sets forth, in the quaint phraseology of the time, the sufferings of the early settlers, their efforts to obtain a royal charter of incor-

¹ Foster, *Stephen Hopkins*, I. 7.

² These transcripts are in the possession of the John Carter Brown Library of Providence.

poration, the guile with which the Connecticut agent, Winthrop, obtained such a charter from Lord Clarendon, "designing thereby to Eclipse this Colony of all the Lands on the Main Land that was included within our former Charter," and the determination of the colonists to stand by the privileges of their charter, as becomes men who "have a Tincture of the ancient British Blood in their veins."

Testimony, reports, and memorials bearing upon this matter had been amassed in prodigal profusion for the edification and instruction of the Lords of Trade, who at length, in 1723, proposed that both colonies should cut the Gordian knot of conflicting boundary lines by voluntarily surrendering their charters and annexing themselves to New Hampshire. This proposition the contending parties considered with a solemnity which reflects credit upon their appreciation of decorum and is far from belying their sense of humor. Connecticut declined to surrender her charter, but expressed entire willingness to abide by the royal decision. Rhode Island, too, objected to the proposed surrender of her chartered privileges, and her agent, Partridge, sustains Governor Cranston, saying pertinently, "As farr as I can learn it is not only impracticable to joyne Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire together by reason of the distant Situation of the Governments but it would be very Injurious to our Inhabitants."¹ The matter was referred to the King in Council, and the point at issue, namely, whether the eastern boundary of Connecticut was Narragansett Bay or the Pawcatuck River, was ultimately decided in favor of Rhode Island.²

Cranston's successor was Joseph Jencks of Pawtucket (then included within the township of Providence), who had served the colony in several capacities before his election as

¹ See p. 13.

² See Order in Council, February 8, 1724, in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 370.

governor. The boundary of this small colony of Rhode Island was in a state of chronic readjustment, and in 1710 Jencks was given extraordinary powers for six months as a special boundary commissioner to come to some settlement with Colonel Joseph Dudley regarding the Massachusetts line.¹

His efforts proved successful, and he was then called upon to exert himself in behalf of his colony's claim against Connecticut, by an appointment to act with Partridge, in London, to "manage the affairs of this colony for the settling of the bounds between this colony and those of Massachusetts Bay and Connecticut, and all other business that may arise or happen."² As has been stated, the Connecticut claim was adjusted in February, 1727. In April, Jencks, who had filled the position of deputy-governor with satisfaction to himself and the colony since his return from England, in 1722, was called upon to take the office of governor, left vacant suddenly by Cranston's death. The action of the Assembly regarding his residence indicates the prominence of the mercantile and trading interest in the colonial government. It was promptly voted that it was "highly necessary" for the governor of the colony to live at Newport, "the metropolis of the government," and that since the removal from Pawtucket would be "very chargeable," £100 should be allowed Governor Jencks "to defray the charges of removing his family to Newport."³ Jencks's administration was brought to a close by his veto of a bill authorizing the emission of £60,000 in bills of credit. The Assembly voted his dissent null and void, upon technical grounds. Both parties appealed to the home government, which decided that neither the Governor of Rhode Island nor the King had power to repeal or annul an act of the General

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 94, for the appointment.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VI. 286.

³ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 388.

Assembly.¹ It has been asserted that Jencks had, in the spring of 1731, declared his determination not to accept another reelection. Possibly this decision influenced his uncompromising attitude on the paper money question. Be that as it may, it is certain that in the following May, William Wanton, a prominent merchant of Newport, was called to the position. Wanton was the first representative in public life of a family which gave four governors to the Colony of Rhode Island. It seems most convenient at this point to depart from a strictly chronological order in speaking of the Rhode Island governors whose correspondence lies before us, and to combine in one view the four governors of the name and family of Wanton.² Those remaining — the two Wards, William Greene, and Stephen Hopkins — may be conveniently taken up as a second group.

The Wantons represented the most attractive phase of colonial life. They were descendants of a Massachusetts settler of the seventeenth century, who was led to embrace the doctrines of the Quakers from admiration and sympathy for their sufferings under the stern religious dispensation of the Puritan colony. Two of his sons — John and William — moved to Newport, established themselves as shipbuilders, and soon became prominent among the enterprising citizens of the town. Their exploits when young men of twenty-two and twenty-four as leaders of a privateering enterprise against a pirate who was devastating the coasting-trade of the port gained them a local reputation for enterprise and

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 457-461.

² The years of administration in Rhode Island ran from May to May. William Wanton served as governor from May, 1732, to December, 1733.

John Wanton served as governor from December, 1733, to July, 1742.

Gideon Wanton served as governor from May, 1745, to May, 1746.

Gideon Wanton served as governor from May, 1747, to May, 1748.

Joseph Wanton served as governor from May, 1769, to November, 1775.

daring. In 1697 they equipped and manned two vessels, and rid Narragansett Bay of a French man-of-war whose depredations had driven the traders from the seas, and this affair seems to have secured for them the notice of the Court in London. We find an existing tradition that the venerable father of the family argued and expostulated in vain against an enterprise so contrary to the rules of their society, but finding his sons obdurate he concluded his appeal by saying, "While it would be a grief to my spirit to hear that ye had fallen in a military enterprise, yet, if ye will, remember that it would be a greater grief to hear that ye were cowards." That grief was spared him. The French ship was captured, proved a valuable prize, and when, a few years later, the brothers visited London, they were received at Court and presented with silver plate and appropriate heraldic civilities. William Wanton became, in 1705, deputy for Newport and speaker of the General Assembly. He took part in the Canada expedition of 1709, was boundary commissioner in the dispute with Connecticut, and served either as deputy or assistant until 1732. In that and the following year he was elected governor. He died in 1734, sincerely mourned by his fellow townsmen. He is described as a "polished gentleman, of easy, polite, and engaging manners, very hospitable and fond of entertaining his friends." He was succeeded as governor by his brother, John Wanton, a prominent figure in the political and social life of Rhode Island during thirty-six years. In 1706 he represented Newport in the Assembly, and was appointed colonel of the regiment raised for the Canada expedition of 1709. Afterward, returning to civic life, he represented Newport from 1712 to 1721, in which year he was elected deputy-governor. In, or about, the year 1712, he publicly joined the society of the Quakers, and from that time travelled much as a religious teacher, and became a powerful and eloquent speaker, whose preaching attracted multitudes, and whose great wealth was devoted to deeds of benevolence. We read

with interest of Governor John Wanton preaching a sermon on the vanity of earthly greatness before the congregation of Friends in Newport, and so far honoring the dignity of his official position, on the occasion, as to appear before the brethren in his governor's cloak of scarlet lined with blue. It was John Wanton who, as deputy-governor, in 1731, summoned the Assembly (when Governor Jenks refused to do so) that the deputies might dispute the right of the governor to veto an act of Assembly, and in this remarkable proceeding he was upheld by the officers of the Crown. John Wanton was deputy-governor from 1729 to 1733; he was then elected governor and held the office until his death in 1742. The last two years of his administration were filled with preparations for the war with Spain and the resulting expedition against the Spanish West Indies. In this expedition of 1740 against Cartagena, as in that of 1745 against Louisbourg, the most effective service contributed by Rhode Island was through her privateers. Between 1741 and 1743¹ twenty-two ships were sent out by the merchants of Newport. Two hundred of the colony militia were despatched to Jamaica in the summer of 1740,² where they became victims of the climate and yellow fever. In the following year reinforcements were raised for General Wentworth's attack upon Santiago, and there too failure and hardship awaited the English forces. The lack of harmony and coöperation between Wentworth and Admiral Vernon made it necessary to abandon the expedition.

That John Wanton, the Quaker preacher, should issue military commissions, and take other violent measures as chief executive of the colony, led to outspoken remonstrance from his spiritual co-workers. A visiting committee was sent to point out to the aged governor the error of his ways. They were doubtless politely received, and were briefly in-

¹ See lists in Sheffield, *Privateersmen of Newport*, p. 44.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 576.

formed that in no particular had their governor "done violence to the law of conscience, but in all concerns listening to the still small voice of divine emanation, and being obedient thereto."¹

In 1745 another member of the Wanton family became the chief executive of the colony. This was Gideon, a nephew of William and John Wanton, and like them a prosperous Newport merchant. For ten years he had been the colony treasurer. From 1745 to 1748 he and William Greene (of whom more will be said in connection with another phase of the colony's history) filled, alternately, the position of governor. Their correspondence during these years bears evidence of the part taken by Rhode Island in the Louisbourg expedition of 1745. Shirley's appeal, in January, with its carefully detailed scheme of attack,² occasioned a special session of the Assembly,³ wherein it was resolved to equip the colony sloop with all necessary warlike stores, and to man her with one hundred and thirty able-bodied seamen, that "she immediately proceed to join the forces raised by the Province of the Massachusetts Bay,"⁴ to sail for Cape Breton. The terms of this levy were somewhat changed a few months later,⁵ when the crew of the sloop was reduced to ninety men, and it was decided to enlist three companies of militia, of fifty men each. One conjectures that the "able-bodied seamen" of Narragansett Bay would prefer to man other vessels than those of the colonial government in these piping times of privateering. An act was also passed "for encouraging soldiers to enlist to go in the intended expedition against the French settlements on the island of Cape Breton, in the Pay of the Province of the Massachusetts."⁶ In one respect the eager Shirley found

¹ Rider's *Historical Tract No. 3*, p. 55.

² See Shirley's letter, p. 298.

³ See Greene's letter, p. 306.

⁴ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 101.

⁵ At the regular session, in March.

⁶ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 103, 105.

that his preparations had been already anticipated. He intimated that the "frequent and very large Emissions of Paper Bills of Credit . . . of late made for the Conveniency of the Inhabitants" of Rhode Island would suggest that at least "*one Emission for his Majesty's Service, and for the Support of the Common Cause of the Colonies of New England*"¹ might be fairly expected. The loyalty of Rhode Island always rose to an emergency of this nature. The Assembly had already voted an emission of £6250 "for defraying the charge and expense of both land and sea forces."²

The troops thus provided for sailed with the Connecticut detachment in the early spring, and were reported safe within the harbor of Canso, on April 26, by Captain Fones, of the colony sloop *Tartar*, — having already experienced the excitement of being chased by a French cruiser. Just two months later (on June 26),³ Captain Fones sent home his graphic account of the engagement in Famme Goose Bay, which prevented the relief of Louisbourg by the French.

Much of the patriotic zeal of the Rhode-Islanders was devoted to enterprises which partook of profit as well as adventure. The merchantmen of Newport and Bristol were easily converted into privateers, and more than one fortune was brought home from the Spanish Main. One of these keen-witted patriots was said to have visited fifteen hundred miles of Spanish territory, and the foundations of many a prosperous mercantile house were laid in the course of the reprisals, and the illicit trading, for which the letters of marque afforded so good an opportunity.

Both Shirley and Pepperell were especially anxious to obtain seamen for manning the *Vigilant*, a 64-gun ship captured from the French, and a most valuable addition to the squadron before Louisbourg. The Assembly was willing

¹ See Shirley's letter, p. 320.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 105.

³ See letter on p. 349.

that two hundred should be enlisted. Shirley writes from Boston, "I find my endeavors will be to little purpose, whilst all mariners subject to be impressed here into His Majesty's service, fly to Rhode Island to avoid it, (as indeed has been long the practice,) and are there sheltered and encouraged, where (I am credibly informed,) there are at this time many hundreds of foreign seamen daily walking the streets of Newport, whilst scarce one is to be found in Boston ; from whence I am assured in particular, that upwards of twenty have secretly fled towards your colony from my impress warrants, within these last two or three days ;" and he begs Governor Wanton not to permit his colony "to be an assylum to all mariners coming into New England, for screening themselves from His Majesty's service." ¹ Upon the reception of this indignant remonstrance the Assembly voted to impress forty seamen, should such a measure be necessary in order to fill up the quota already provided for.

Perhaps the Rhode-Islanders felt that their zeal might appear somewhat lukewarm beside that of the enthusiastic levies who had toiled day and night in the trenches before Louisbourg, strong in the conviction that in fighting Roman Catholics they fought idolatry and that the sword of the Lord was in their hands. At all events, the Assembly, in this same June session, "cast an anchor to windward" by appointing a committee "to extract from the records, the several acts and votes passed by the General Assembly, respecting the expedition against Cape Breton, in order to be sent to the agent ; and that they write a letter, to be signed by His Honor, the Governor, and to be sent home, with said votes, setting forth the reasons of this colony's conduct in respect to their not joining in the expedition sooner than they did, to be made use of in the defence of this colony, if there be occasion." ² Before the summer

¹ This letter is in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 136.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 123.

closed — as if answering in anticipation the questioning attitude of his clients — Richard Partridge writes from London,¹ “Here is an Express lately arrived to the L^{ds} of the Admiralty from Boston of the 1st June giving Some acco^t of the progress of the said Expedition, about which the Ministry and People here are mighty Intent and fond off, looking upon it of very great Consequence to this Kingdom as well as to our Plantations, and therefore are very much pleased with the New England People for Undertaking it; but I have had it several times thrown at me as if Rhode Island wou’d contribute very little if anything at all towards it, And very lately as if they were so far from affording their Assistance that when the Sailors belonging to the Kings Men of War or other Ships of War had deserted and got into Rhode Island Government they were there harboured and protected . . . if these things shou’d prove true it may make up hill work for me, both at Court and at Parliament.” And then the indefatigable Partridge proceeds to write to the Clerk of the Privy Council,² assuring him of the unswerving loyalty and devotion of the colony to British interests, as attested by the fact that her merchants raised £8000 and equipped a 20-gun ship for the Cape Breton expedition. A summing-up of the case for Rhode Island is given in Partridge’s petition for the reimbursement of the expenses incurred,³ but it was not until the April of 1748 that he could write to Governor Wanton that the House of Commons had resolved “that a Sum not exceeding £6332.12.10. be granted for Our Colony’s Expence in the Cape Breton Expedition.”

The unfortunate little squadron which started to relieve Annapolis Royal, and was wrecked off Mt. Desert, is likewise the subject of a somewhat voluminous correspondence,

¹ See letter on p. 353.

² See letter on p. 359.

³ See p. 412.

in which the agent and the governor discuss at length the prospects of reimbursement, and the necessary formalities to be observed.

The administration of the fourth Governor Wanton brings us to a later generation in the annals of the colony, although not in those of the Wanton family. Joseph Wanton was a son of that William who was governor from May, 1732, to December, 1733, and first cousin to Gideon, whose correspondence has just been discussed. His first year of office fell at a time when the political feud known to us as the Ward-Hopkins controversy had just been formally closed by a political treaty between the contending factions. Originating some fifteen years earlier in the attempt of the citizens of Providence, backed by the farmers of the outlying districts, to obtain a portion of the political power and prestige which had been in the hands of the Newport merchants for so long a time that the memory of man ran not to the contrary, this local struggle for the political leadership of the colony soon degenerated into an exchange of bitter personal abuse, and a series of annual political intrigues. The echoes of the controversy had not yet died away when the last Wanton took his seat in the governor's chair, and a letter of his son, Joseph Wanton, Jr., whose sympathies were with the Providence party, shows how strong was still the dread of a victorious Ward, — a vision which his opponents could only lay by the potent name of Hopkins.

For several years before revolutionary hostilities were actually begun, acts of violence were not uncommon in the colonial seaports, where a mob of rough fellows could be easily collected, and where few townsmen felt disposed to venture their persons and property and incur the ill-will of their fellow citizens in any effort to protect or uphold the customs officials. Newport was, like other ports, the scene of revenue riots in 1765, and in the ensuing investigation and re-creation Governor Wanton seems to have sided with the provincials. He writes to Lord Hillsborough, when called to

account for the destruction of the *Liberty*, "how unkind and ungentlemanly-like it is for officers, sent abroad by the crown to reside in the colonies, by every means in their power to traduce and even falsely accuse his majesty's faithful subjects of this Colony to their sovereign and his ministers of state."¹ His attitude in the affair of the *Gaspee* is too well known to require elucidation here.²

Joseph Wanton was elected governor for the last time in April, 1775. A few days later a special session of the Assembly was held at Providence to consider the Boston Port Bill. Almost simultaneously with the announcement of this new disciplinary legislation came the news of the fight at Lexington. The deputies promptly passed a resolution stating that whereas they were surrounded with fleets and armies threatening immediate destruction, "to restore peace to the minds of the good people of this Colony, it appears absolutely necessary to this Assembly that a number of men be raised and embodied, properly armed and disciplined, to continue in this Colony as an army of observation, to repel any insult or violence that may be offered to the inhabitants ;"³ and it was voted to raise fifteen hundred men for that purpose. To this measure Governor Wanton and three assistants dissented, on the ground that it would be fatal to the preservation of the colony's charter privileges, would pave the way to civil war, and be an open violation of their official oath of allegiance. When the May session opened, the Governor was too ill to attend. He sent an urgent message to the Assembly, begging the Colony to seek prosperity and happiness in its connection with Great Britain, and to avoid that ruin and destruction which "some of the orders of the late Assembly must inevitably involve them in." The Assembly was in no mood to turn back. It forwarded military

¹ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VII. 42.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VII., for the correspondence and evidence upon the subject.

³ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VII. 310.

commissions for the Army of Observation to the governor for his signature ; and he promptly refused to sign them. In this emergency the Assembly took the extraordinary step of declaring Governor Wanton's election null and void, on the ground that he had not appeared to take the oath of office (although prevented by illness), and that he had refused to sign the military commissions. "By all which" (says the resolution) "he hath manifested his intentions to defeat the good people of these colonies in their present glorious struggle to transmit inviolate to posterity those sacred rights which they have received from their ancestors." In June, Wanton appeared and demanded to be sworn into office,¹ in a message dealing at some length with the various points at issue. His justification was not satisfactory, and in the autumn session following, the Assembly pronounced the office of governor vacant, and Joseph Wanton "totally inimical to the rights and liberties of America, and therefore rendered totally unfit to sustain the said office."²

There has seemed to be an advantage in grouping political and military events about personalities so similar in character and mental poise as were the four Wantons. Of the other Rhode Island governors in the period under review — the Wards, William Greene, and Stephen Hopkins — the last-named left an impress upon the Rhode Island of his time far more lasting than that made by his contemporaries and rivals. Hopkins began his political life as representative for Scituate in 1732, and served in that capacity for six years. In 1741 he came to Providence, and from that time his name is identified with the public life of his new home, where he soon became a guiding spirit. In 1744 he was sent as deputy to the Assembly, and served with but two intermissions until 1752. In 1750 he was one of a committee appointed to report upon the emissions of bills of credit

¹ See his letter in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VII. 336.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VII. 393.

made by the colony.¹ This committee was instructed to draw up the answers to certain queries of the Lords of Trade, and their report is a statement of facts, pure and simple. The bearing of these facts upon the prosperity of the colony, and the ruinous policy of the clamor for paper emissions, — which few public men in a community governed by popular elections could withstand, — is set forth by Governor William Greene, in his message to the Assembly, and that in terms which admit no equivocal interpretation.

In the following year Hopkins was made chief justice of the Superior Court, his qualifications being those of many a magistrate elected to fill the position of judge by his fellow townsmen because of his well-known integrity and solid common sense. He was still chief justice when elected governor in May, 1755. Hopkins resigned the former position, and a new chief justice was elected, but did not qualify for the office. The Rhode Islanders turned back to Hopkins, and in the August sessions of the Assembly he was again called upon to fill the position, and held it, together with that of governor, until May, 1756, when a new chief justice was chosen.

Hopkins's first administration coincided with the opening of the French and Indian War. As a delegate to the provincial congresses of 1746 and 1754, he had become familiar with plans for military aggression and defence, and had learned the necessity of careful organization and combined effort on the part of the colonies. He had listened to Franklin's "Plan of Union," and felt with him that there was no repose for the thirteen American colonies so long as the French were masters of Canada.

Early in 1755 Rhode Island sent one hundred men to Crown Point, and in August, upon the arrival of the news of Braddock's defeat, the Governor called a special session of the Assembly and asked for reinforcements. Another

¹ This report is in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 283.

hundred and fifty were forthcoming, to be "sent by land unto Albany," and by the end of the year, successive additions had brought the number of the colony's levies up to seven hundred and fifty. Shirley's letter of January 2, 1756, gives his proposed plan of campaign for the coming year, which was to prove so full of cruel disappointments for him; and the progress (or lack of progress) during the summer months is detailed in the letters from Winslow, Angell, Governors Shirley and Hardy of New York, and others who figured less conspicuously upon the scene of war.

Great anxiety, amounting almost to panic, was felt upon receiving news of the loss of Oswego. Governor Hopkins writes to Lord Loudoun in October that Rhode Island will augment her quota from sixty to four hundred men, who shall "move forward with the Utmost expedition." They were not called upon to do so, as Loudoun replied that the season was too far advanced to undertake military operations, and in November the troops were disbanded. The usual appeal for men came in the following February, and a contingent of four hundred was voted. Before the tardy spring had fairly established her foothold in bleak New England, evidence arrived of a new spirit which had breathed upon that exceedingly material stronghold, the Colonial Office. William Pitt was Secretary of State from December, 1756, to April, 1757, and his letters of February 4 and 19 were a call to arms which infused energy and enthusiasm even into the formalities of official correspondence. Unfortunately for the colonies, Pitt's term of office was too brief to enable him at this time to reconstruct the organization of the army and the personnel of the military staff. The campaign of 1757 closed even more discouragingly than that of the previous year, for upon the loss of Fort William Henry no fate seemed too gloomy for the panic-stricken forebodings of the Americans. The atrocities of the Indians (bad in reality) were exaggerated, and by every post the news was expected that the French were in New York. Pitt's char-

acterization of the season's operations as "the last inactive and unhappy Campaign" (writing in December) was no overestimate of the situation. Rhode Island did exert her "utmost endeavors" in response to the summons of the great war minister, and in March, 1758, put one thousand men into the field. The military successes of the next two years — Ticonderoga, Niagara, Louisbourg, and Quebec — are too well known to require description here. Major Wall's letter of September 17, 1758, tells a later generation of the part played by the Rhode Island troops in taking Fort Frontenac.¹ Again, in 1759, a regiment of one thousand men was voted, since "the King hath been pleased, by a letter from the Right Honorable William Pitt, Esq. . . . to acquaint this colony that he expects the several governments will raise at least as many men as they respectively raised the last year, and as many more as their circumstances will admit."

In the Seven Years' War, as in that of 1745, the part taken by Rhode-Islanders was played far more upon sea than upon land. Newport led all other colonial ports in the number of her privateersmen.² More than sixty vessels were commissioned. Some which had seen similar service ten years before were again fitted out for expeditions against the French. Commodore Abraham Whipple was said to have captured twenty-three prizes in one year's cruise. Sheffield tells us³ that a prize when captured was brought in and condemned, and then commissioned under English colors to serve against her old masters. The French retaliated by lying in wait for the slave-traders who ran from Newport with cargoes of rum to the African coast, and thence to the West Indies with negro slaves. In this connection a quotation giving the experience of Governor Joseph Wanton may be found interesting: "I, Joseph Wanton, being one of the

¹ In *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VI. 166.

² Sheffield, *Privateersmen of Newport*, pp. 52-55, gives a list.

³ Sheffield, pp. 27-29.

people called Quakers, and conscientiously scrupulous about taking an oath upon solemn affirmation, say that on the 1st day of the month commonly called April, A. D. 1758, I sailed from Newport in the *Snow*, King of Prussia, with a cargo of 124 hogsheads of rum, twenty barrels of rum, and other cargo ; that on the twentieth day of the month called May, I made Cape Mount on the west coast of Africa ; that I ran down the coast and traded until I arrived at Annamibo, where, while at anchor, on the twenty-third day of the month called July, when I had on board fifty-four slaves, twenty ounces of gold-dust, and sixty-five hogsheads of rum, I was taken by a French privateer of sixty guns, fitted out of Bordeaux, called *LeCompte* of St. Florentine, having on board between 500 and 600 men, while my vessel had but three small pieces and eleven men." The injury to the commerce of Newport during this period of plunder and reprisal was very great, and it was during these years that the sister city at the head of Narragansett Bay began her political and commercial rivalry.

Under the leadership of such men as Stephen Hopkins and James Brown, the father of the "Four Brothers" of Revolutionary times,¹ Providence had become prosperous, and was so early as 1743 keenly alive to the disadvantages of its political subordination to Newport. The election of a governor from Warwick, William Greene, in that year, was practically the first departure² since 1657 from the traditional selection of a resident of Newport for that position. The Greene family was, however, identified with Newport interests, both by business connections and by intermarriage with the Wards, prominent merchants of the colonial metropolis. Richard Ward was successively secretary, deputy-governor, and governor of Rhode Island, and his second son, Samuel, became noted as a skilful leader of partisan politics,

¹ Nicholas, Joseph, John, and Moses Brown.

² Joseph Jencks was the one exception, and it will be remembered that he was obliged to remove himself and family to Newport.

and the rival of Stephen Hopkins in the unfortunate feud which was so long the chief political interest.

This episode interests us, notwithstanding the belittling nature of its personalities and its tendency to obscure all the larger public issues, because it shows us on a small scale the antagonism in opinion and interests of the prosperous and conservative elements of a community when arrayed against those of the poorer and comparatively ignorant. The agriculturist of the northern counties was, for instance, ever loud in his cry for paper money, while the Newport merchants fought the mania as a species of financial suicide, even going to the length of petitioning for the royal prohibition.¹ With the merchants of Newport were arrayed the planters of South County. This was the party of possession, and its political machine, if primitive, was well adapted to achieve satisfactory results. Not until the election of 1755 was its ascendancy effectively disputed. In that year Stephen Hopkins was elected governor after a severe struggle and by a narrow majority, — the first successful candidate who was not backed by the mercantile oligarchy of Newport. It would be a profitless task to detail the progress of this struggle between the Ward and Hopkins factions during the next thirteen years. Those documents illustrating the episode which occur in this series will be found provided with sufficient annotation to explain their bearing on the situation in general.

Stephen Hopkins continued his useful public career long after the conclusion of the compromise of 1768. He represented Providence in the General Assembly from 1770 to 1775, and at the same time occupied his old position as chief justice of the Superior Court. All his energy and ability was thrown into the cause of the colonies during these years of trial, and his influence extended far outside the borders of Rhode Island. His ready and forceful pen

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 311.

contributed several noteworthy pamphlets to the literature of the Revolution, and his decisions as chief justice in the *Gaspee* cases are matters of common knowledge.¹ Under his influence slavery was forbidden in Rhode Island.² It is probably safe to say that no public improvement, whether intellectual, political, or purely utilitarian, took place within the forty years between 1744 and 1784 which was not largely helped by the cordial and intelligent coöperation of Stephen Hopkins, and, in the majority of instances, due to his vigorous personal initiative.

In conclusion the editor takes pleasure in acknowledging the courtesy of the officials of the department of the Secretary of State for Rhode Island, through whose kindness the archives were made accessible.

A personal debt of thanks for kindly assistance and criticism is owing Dr. G. P. Winship and Dr. William MacDonald of Brown University, to Mr. William B. Weeden, and especially to Dr. J. Franklin Jameson of Chicago University.

The thanks of the public, no less than of the editor, are due to the Colonial Dames of Rhode Island, whose patriotism and public spirit have made these volumes possible.

GERTRUDE SELWYN KIMBALL.

¹ For an account of Hopkins's life and services, see Mr. Foster's Life, in *Historical Tracts No. 19*, 2 vols.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, VII, 251-253.

A LIST OF THE TERMS OF ADMINISTRATION OF THE
GOVERNORS REPRESENTED IN THIS COLLECTION

1698, March.	Samuel Cranston	to	April 26, 1727, d.
1727, May.	Joseph Jencks	"	May, 1732.
1732, May.	William Wanton	"	December, 1733, d.
1734, May.	John Wanton	"	July 5, 1740, d.
1740, July 15.	Richard Ward	"	May, 1743.
1743, May.	William Greene	"	May, 1745.
1745, May.	Gideon Wanton	"	May, 1746.
1746, May.	William Greene	"	May, 1747.
1747, May.	Gideon Wanton	"	May, 1748.
1748, May.	William Greene	"	May, 1755.
1755, May.	Stephen Hopkins	"	May, 1757.
1757, May.	William Greene	"	February 22, 1758, d.
1758, March 14.	Stephen Hopkins	"	May, 1762.
1762, May.	Samuel Ward	"	May, 1763.
1763, May.	Stephen Hopkins	"	May, 1765.
1765, May.	Samuel Ward	"	May, 1767.
1767, May.	Stephen Hopkins	"	May, 1768.
1768, May.	Josias Lyndon	"	May, 1769.
1769, May.	Joseph Wanton	"	November, 1775, deposed.

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CORRESPONDENCE OF THE COLONIAL GOVERNORS OF RHODE ISLAND

GOVERNOR CRANSTON TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.¹

Worthy and Esteemed frind.

I have communicated your Letter, wth the propositions and advice of the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations &c^a to the General Assembly of this His Maj^{ty}'s Colony sitting in Newport the 26th of November 1723, who requested mee in their name,² to returne the following memorial and answer to their Lordships.

Viz^t—with all due and humble submission they pray their Lordships will be pleased to consider that their Predicessors with great Perrill and charge Transported themselves and Families from their Native Country of Great Brittain, to this then a wild and howling Wilderness (as great part is to this day) inhabited by Salvage and Barbarous People, and Beasts of Prey, wee shall not instance or insist upon the per-

¹ Copied from the transcript in the John Carter Brown Library, P. R. O. Proprietes B. T., Vol. XI. R. 46. Samuel Cranston was, by successive reflections, governor of Rhode Island from 1698 to 1727. See p. xxii of the *Introduction*.

² The Assembly voted, on November 26, 1723, "Whereas, our Agent, by order of the lords commissioners, &c., has written to this government, for answer whether we will surrender our charter to the King;—

"Which being duly considered, it is voted by this Assembly, that the answer drawn by the Governor, be sent home." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 333.

ticulars of the great sufferings, and cruell hardships they suffered and encountered with after their arrival in the Massachusetts Bay, before they were compelled to seek for shelter and relief among the great body of Salvage Natives within the precincts and confines of this Colony who (by the Christian deportm^t and wining behaviour of our said Predecessors) was by the Divine Providence of God become Gentle and Compassionate, considered their distressed condition and granted them liberty to erect Hutts and digg Cellers among them to skreen and shelter them from the Extremity of the Weather, and by their Christian demeanour and conversation as afores^d the Natives in a Little time became more familiar, and sold them considerable Tracts of Land as the Township of Providence, Pautuxet, Warwick, and Misquamacut alias Westerly, so that as their number increased they associated together, purchased Rhode Island and the rest of the Islands in the Narraganset Bay it will exceed our present purpose to innumerate or particularise the unnaccountable hardship, labour and discouragement they mett with from the neighbouring Governments, and before they could subdue and cultivate a little Land to raise some corne and keep a little Stock of Creatures to subsist themselves and families, but through their great Labour industry and paines, with the Blessing of God they made such improvement in a few years, as incouraged them to Petition his Royall Majesty King Charles the first for a Charter of Incorporation, which they obtained from the Earl of Warwick &c^a with meets, butts, and Bounds, the King then being Imbroiled

in the Civill Warrs by his Rebellious subjects, the original Charter then Granted you have with you.¹

Upon the Restoration of King Charles the Second of Glorious memory they addressed his s^d Majesty for a Confirmation of their aforesaid Charter, the which his said Majesty was Graciously pleased, to promise should be granted and confirmed to the extent thereof according to the Bounds, att the same time M^r Winthrop Agent for Connecticot, addressed his said Majesty for a Charter of Incorporation for that Government, and it was agreed upon by the Two Agents viz^t M^r Winthrop and M^r John Clark to take out their Charters att one and the same time, so as they might not Intrench upon each others property and Jurisdiction but contrary to this agreement, M^r Winthrop (unknown to M^r Clark) Privately by false insinuations to the Lord Chancellor Hide getts out Connecticot Charter upon his own termes, designing thereby to Eclips this Colony of all the Lands on the Main Land that was Included within our former Charter. The greatest part thereof was purchased from the Natives by the Inhabitants of this Colony, and clandestinely getts the s^d Charter to be Bounded on the East by the Narraganset River commonly called the Narraganset Bay. M^r Clark the Agent for this Colony, dureing this private and Fraudulant proceeding of M^r Winthrop, thought himself secure waiting for said Winthrops call, pursuant to his agreement, but when he was informed of said Winthrops clandestine and sirobtitious pro-

¹ This charter is printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, I. 143.

ceeding immediately address the King for Releif who out of his princely goodness (hauing a perticular regard for this Colony as he expres't himself, orders Connecticut Charter to be called in and stopt till the Matter in Difference should be determined, to com-
premise which the Agents mutually made choice of several Gentlemen to settle that matter but before they had finished, M^r Winthrop by false suggestions and insinuations to the Lord Chancellor (unknown to M^r Clark) getts out Connecticut Charter a second time and privately sends it away, for which fraudulent and contemptious Action he was severely reprimanded by the King and the Charter threatned to be called back againe, but the Arbitrators agreeing, and the Agents signing the said agreement of w^{ch} agreement you have an attested copy, had M^r Winthrop been faithfull to his word and the promise of a Gentleman, and not have proved himself false and Treachirous, the Charters would have been taken out togeather att one and the same time and bore equall date and would have prevented that Govern^t from disputeing the Kings prerogative, who upon the aforesaid agreement ordered our present Charter to be drawn in a most Gracious manner with many great Libertyes and privilidges as is fully sett forth in said Charter under the great Seal of England,¹ and his said Majesty to prevent future disputes that might arise between the two Colonyes as to the uncertainty of the Easterly Bound of Connecticut

¹ The original documents relating to this episode may be found in the *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial, 1661-1668*, pp. 20, 110, 145, 148; and see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, Vol. I.

Charter about the Narraganset River commonly called the Narraganset Bay explaines and determines (Pursuant to the Agents Agreement) which was the Narraganset River mentioned to be the Easterly Bounds of Connecticut Charter there being no other River cal'd or known by that name till his Majesties afores^d Determination, nor is there to this day nor was Narraganset Bay ever called a River, but by Connecticut and some others who alwayes sought the ruin and distruction of this Colony, the Bay being of a considerable wedth, and such a Bay as tis presumed was never called a river, in any the Mapps of the World, with humble submission wee conceive it to bee a verry great presumption in the Government of Connecticut to dispute and arraigne the Kings prerogative, determined and confirmed under the great seal of England by and with the concurrence and approbation of their Agents, and altho Connecticut Charter was dated¹ some time before that of this Colony which was clandestinely obtained by surprise as afores^d the Grant to this Colony by his Majestye's Royal word as our Agent certainly informed was before that to Connecticut the matter in difference being which is the Narraganset river the bounds between the two Colonies whether it be the Narraganset Bay insinuated by the Government of Connecticut to be that River, or that which the King determined in our Royall Charter was the Narraganset River and should ever after be called the Nar-

¹ The charter for Connecticut was obtained in 1662. That for Rhode Island was dated July 8, 1663. See the "Agents Agreement" in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, I, 518.

raganset River,¹ mentioned as the Easterly bounds of Connecticut Colony, so that our appeal to His present most Gracious Majestye King George was only to pray his Royal determination, wheather the sacred words of his Royall Predecessor under the great Seal of England, was not more binding and of greater force then the words of his Vassals and Subjects, who speak for their own interest and gaine, and that we might be protected against the unjust molestation and Intrusions of the Government of Connecticut upon our rights and propertyes which we have possessed upwards of fourscore years, and the matter being now before his Majestye.

We answer to their Lordships first proposition, about quieting the difference between this Government and the Government of Connecticut with humble submission, and due regard to their Lordships great Wisdom, we say wee have no differance with the Government of Connecticut, but what His Majestyes Royall word will determine as afores^d for the obtaining of which as dutifull and Loyall subjects shall patiently wait and doubt not but his princely wisdom will influence him to confirm us in our just rights and Properties in the possession of the Grant of His Royall Predecessor, according to Our Charter.

To the Second proposition insisted upon by their Lordships viz^t for the better defence of the Country, wee answer that His Majesty its true may strengthen us with standing Troops, but for any other strength, as we are a Frontier to the Ocian, the Inlets into our Bay is so open and wide that it is impracticable to

¹ This was the Pawcatuck River. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, I, 518.

fortifie them so as to prevent an enemy from entering into the same tho' at this time wee are Building our Fort more regular and defencable, with stone and Lime mortar for the security of Trade and Navigation, the Colony having already given five thousand pounds towards the carrying on that work, the strength of this Colony (under the Protection of God) consists in our Militia who are Trained up and exercised in Military discipline and are obliged continually as well in peace as in warr, to be supplied each man with a good fire arme, powder and Ball and they are generally verry expert in the use of them, so that through the blessing of God, wee have not only defended ourselves against his Majestyes and the Colonyes Enemies, but have very frequently offended them both by Land and by Sea, and upon any expedition against the Kings Enemies, have exceeded our quota's with the rest of the Colonyes and Provinces.

To the third proposition that Trade may be better secured &c^a wee answer as aforesaid, that wee are fortifying our Harbour more strongly for the security of Trade &c^a and to enable our Governour to comply with the Acts of Trade and Navigation, the which he is annually sworne to observe and the which he hath to the utmost of his power duly performed in his circumstance (considering the Constitution of the Government obligeth him to be more carefull and circumspect upon that foot, then any that is distinguished by the name of a Kings Govern^r, for which many reasons could be given, but for brevity's sake shall forbear.

Fourthly to be annexed to New Hampshire besides its being impracticable, wee answer that our Predicessors through great perills, labour and hardship as is before recited, left us their purchases labour and improvements as our Birth right to which by the favour and clemency of a most gracious King they Tacked our present Charter full of valuable privileges &c^a and as they with great cost and difficulty obtained and defended the same against their envious and ungrateful Neighbours and others for the good of their offspring and Posterity, so we hold ourselves in duty and conscience bound to endeavour the preservation of so valuable a blessing, and question not, but so long as we continue dutifull Loyall and obedient Subjects to his present Majesty King George and his Royall Issue but to be protected in our liberty and property the which through his Princly goodness he hath so often declared to maintaine and in a most pathetick manner upon his accession to the Throne.

Fifthly, as to our being annexed to the province of New Hampshire under a Kings Governour, wee answer as before, that it is impracticable to be annexed to that Province should it be our misfortune to have our Charter vacated and taken from us, the great Province of the Massachusets interveaning and lying between this Colony and that Province, and with humble submission wee presume that the Governor of this his Majesty's Colony is as much a Kings Gov^r as any Governor in America by vertue of our Royall Charter under the great Seal of England, and wee esteem him as such during his Administration, and he makes the Laws of England his rule and governm^t

without it be some perticular Laws of the Colony which the Laws of England could not releave us in, tho' not repugnant, and he is under the same restrictions and penalty for any misdemeanour or transgression by him committed as any other of the King^s Governors under his immediate commission, and by an Act of Parliment made in the Reigne of King William the 3.^d¹ as liable to be called home to great Brittain to answer the same.

Wee humbly conceive that the vacating and taking away Charters of Incorporation granted by the Crowne (without just cause of forfeiture) was never known but in an arbitrary Reigne as in that of King James the 2.nd when all Corporations and Charters were crush't and trampled under foot, the effects of which wee severely felt in that short intervail of S^r Edmund Andros's Government² whose arbitrary will with a few of his creatures was a Law and the Kings subjects made Vassals and Slaves in defiance of Magnacharta and the liberty of a British Subject, wee would not be thought by what is before recited to make any reflection upon his present Majestyes Governor under his immediate Commission they being under the regulation and correction of a most Just and Gracious Prince who will not suffer or countenance the violating and infringing the liberty and property of his faithfull and loyall Subjects (but as the Proverb is what hath been may be againe) and our Royall Charter and most gracious priviledges once given up there is no prospect of obtaining the same again.

¹ 11 William III. c. 12.

² 1686-1689.

Wee would have presumed so farr upon their Lordships favour to have some remarks upon the difference wee conceive, there is between a Governor under his Majesty's immediate Commission and a Charter Governor, but that being already so truly explained by M^r Dummer in his Book¹ put forth in vindication of Charter Governments, that wee shall not make any further reflections thereon to which Book wee referr upon that head and sundry others therein sett forth.

Upon the whole wee humbly pray that their Lordships will believe wee have a Tincture of the ancient British Blood in our veines and that wee esteem our liberty and property granted by Our Royall Charter equall to any Corporation in great Brittain, though not of like value and wee hope our loyalty and conduct for the service and interest of the Crowne of great Brittain hath no wayes merited the forfeiture of so valuable a blessing and have faith to believe, that so long as wee continue faithfull, loyall and obeadient Subjects to His Royall Majestye King George and his Illustrious Issue that we shall be confirmed and protected in our rights and properties, tho' at the same time wee are not ignorant, that the Enemies to our present Constitution take all opportunities to misrepresent our conduct, wee therefore

¹ "The able, accomplished, and courtly Jeremy Dummer" was a theologian and pulpit orator of no mean ability. He graduated from Harvard in 1699, and obtained a doctor's degree at Utrecht. He went to England and attached himself to Bolingbroke, but the death of Queen Anne and fall of his patron destroyed his hopes of a political career. He was agent for Massachusetts from 1710 to 1721, and for Connecticut from 1712 until 1730. In 1721 he published, in London, his *Defence of the New England Charters*, which was printed in Boston in that same year. A second edition was brought out in 1728, at the time when the king in council had, on appeal, reversed the decision of the Connecticut courts in the case of *Winthrop vs. Lechmere*.

pray that their Lordships will be pleased to extend their Charity so far as not to give credit to such reports as may be insinuated against us till wee have had liberty to answer for ourselves, and are lawfully convicted. And wee hope their lordships in their Wisdom, upon a further consideration of the afore-said Premises will be of opinion that it will not be for the Interest of Great Brittain nor for the quieting our differance, the Defence of the Country, nor the better security and increase of Trade, to vacate and destroy our Charter, tho' it may be of service and Interest of some perticular Men.

Wee also pray that their Lordships will be pleased to put the most favourable construction on our plain and sincear manner of expressing ourselves, by endeavouring to maintain and support our just rights and propertyes, and that they will believe that wee have not done any thing in contempt or any wayes to slight their Lordships propositions and advice to which wee do and will allwayes pay our due regards, but wee fear their Lordships have not been rightly and truly informed of the scituation of this Country and the disadvantage and prejudice it would be to his Majesty and the Interest of this Colony to be annexed, either to the Province of New Hampsheir or to the Colony of Connecticot, the latter (upon such a change) wee have just cause to believe would invade our Property and purchase rights, by their superiority of voices and ruin some hundreds of Families and the former will impoverish our strength by lightning our purses.

To conclude wee pray that their Lordships in their

great Wisdom will be pleased to make a more favourable report in behalfe of this His Majestyes Colony, and that they will believe that the vacating and takeing away our Royall Charter will not be for the service and interest of his Majesty, and that the continuance thereof with his Maj^{tye}'s Royall protection will with the blessing of God make us a happy and flourishing people, and enable us to be more and more capable to be serviceable to his Maj^{ty}'s Crown and dignity with our Lives and fortunes, with this view wee shall as dutifull and Loyall Subjects submit ourselves and our just cause now before him to his Princely determination, and doubt not but tho' [thro'?] his great wisdom, justice and goodness to receive his Royall word in our favour, the which will putt a period to the differance now depending without being put under a Kings Governor as their Lordships have been pleased to recommend and will oblige us the more fervently to pray for their Lordships health and prosperity and to subscribe their Lordships most obeadient and obliged humble servants; the Governor and Company of His Majestyes English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England.¹

SAM^{LL} CRANSTON Govern^r

NEWPORT ON RODE ISLAND November 26th 1723.

TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE Esq^r

Agent for the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations. In London.

¹ For a statement of the adjustment of the Connecticut and Rhode Island boundary, see p. xxiii of the *Introduction*.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.¹

May it please the Lords Commiss^{rs}

In obedience to your directions to me some time since, to write over to the Govern^t of Rhoad Island &c^a to know if they were willing that their Colony sh^d be annexed to the Kings Governm^t of New Hampshire &c^a I did write to them accordingly and now I have received their answer in a letter directed to myself² wherein they signifie their unwillingness to comply to the proposition which letter I send you inclosed and referr to the contents of it.

I find they would by no means part with any of their Priviledges granted them by their Charter unless it be wrenched from them against their minds which is humbly hoped will not be done till they have forfeited it.

As farr as I can learn it is not only impracticable to joyne Rhode Island, Connec^t and New Hampshire together by reason of the distant Scituation of the Governments but it would be very Injurious to our Inhabitants for that many Substantiall familys would be liable to be turn'd off from their Estates and ruined, being our Oppon^{ts} in the present Controversy between us would (when joined us) be much the Superior in Number and votes and thereby carry what they please against us, and we are fully perswaded would favour a Certain Company of Men of their own sort, who claim under pretence of an Old

¹ Copied from the transcript in the John Carter Brown Library, S. P. O. Proprieties B. T., Vol. XI. R. 44. For an account of Partridge, see p. xvii of the *Introduction*.

² See preceding document.

Mortgage from the Indians (fraudulently obtained) great part of our Lands in Providence Plantations (which our People are the Right and true purchacers and possess^{rs} off.) so not only the Right of Govern^{mt} but private propertie also is most imediatly and nearly concern'd in the matter of Controversy as to the Bounds between Connecticut and Rhode Island as I am able at a proper Season more clearly to demonstrate; and seeing therefore this Colony of ours has been as an Asylum or place of Refuge from the beginning of the settlement thereof to this day, to such especially who once lived under the yoke of the Massachusets Govern^t and have formerly experienced it as they dissented from them, to be very Grievous and too heavy to be borne.

And now laterly the Lords of Trade themselves, cannot but be sencible from what has happend in that Government even at this time,¹ how that many consciencious People are under sufferings there, who differ from their Provincial way of Worship sett up and established in that Province and sh^d we be blended together with Connecticut and New Hampshire where the people are of like principles, the evil consequences would be greater than can be easily imagined.

Wherefore upon the whole it is humbly hoped that Our Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations may remaine as they are under the happy Government of our present Gracious King George (whom God grant long to Reign over us) in the quiet

¹ This refers to the action of the Massachusetts Assembly in extending and continuing the Act of the session of 1715-16, "for maintaining and propagating religion." *Acts and Resolves*, II, 244.

enjoyment of the Rights Priviledges and Possessions of their Forefathers granted by their Charter, as well as they have done in the preceeding Reigns and that a favourable representation shall be made in our behalf when there may be occasion.

And now our answer is come over, as is also that of Connecticut as I am informed I humbly pray you would appoint a day for reconsidering our affair of the Bounds agreeable to the last Order of the Lords of the Committee, and that we may have Council allowed to speak to some matters of moment relating thereto, which I have to lay before you and I have been furnished with since our last hearing.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE

Agent for Rhode Island, Provid : Plant.

LONDON 12^{mo} called Feb^r the 10th, 1723³.

GOVERNOR JENCKS¹ TO GEORGE II.

*To the King's most Excellent Majesty.*²

We Your Majestys Dutifull and Loyal Subjects the Governour and Company of your Majesty's English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England in America, With thankfull Hearts, Acknowledge your Majesty's Royal Favour in con-

¹ Joseph Jencks of Pawtucket, who succeeded Samuel Cranston as governor of Rhode Island in 1727, and held the office until 1732.

² This document is not dated, but probably may be assigned to the summer of 1729, as in the records for the June session of the Assembly for that year it is ordered that the governor draw a petition "that His Majesty would be pleased to bestow upon the colony a suitable number of guns for the fort." *Col. Rec. of R. I.* IV. 428. Bartlett prints this letter at p. 393 of this volume, immediately following the August session of 1727, but gives no reason for doing so. He copies a document in the John Carter Brown MSS. II. No. 95.

tinuing unto us the quiet Enjoyment of our Ancient Charter Priviledges, great in their Nature, but far greater by being Suited to the Circumstances of this your Majesty's Colony; or rather in that we your Majesty's Subjects have had our Birth Growth and Improvements under the same.

In the Enjoyment of these our Priviledges We conceived it but a just Acknowledgement of our Duty and a due Tribute to our Gracious Sovereign to expend some Part of our small Acquisitions of Fortune in these Remote Parts of your Majesty's Dominions in Fortifying the Frontier Parts thereof and puting the same in such a State and Condition as not to fear any Attack from the Enemies of your Majesties peace.

This we were moved to Undertake and Carry on not purely for our own safety and preservation, but rather by the principles of Gratitude raised by the Priviledges we Enjoy and above all by a fixed and steady Resolution of doing every thing that Providence had put in our Power to do for the Maintaining and preserving that Part of the Territories and Dominions of our most good and Beneficent Sovereign committed to our Care.

What we your Majesty's Subjects Apprehended to be most for the Safety and preservation of your Majestys Colony and Dominions Adjacent was the Fortifying Newport the Chief Town in said Colony, and the most Frontier upon all the Coast of New England: Where we your Majesty's Subjects have Built a Regular and Beautifull Fortification of Stone with a Battery Subjoined wherein may be conveniently mounted Sixty Cannon.



THE GOVERNOR JOSEPH JENKS HOUSE, PAWTUCKET

From a Painting.

And we being well Assured of your Majesty's good Disposition towards all your Subjects, are, therefore, emboldened to Entreat Your Majesty graciously to Consider these Parts of your Majesty's Dominions, by us inhabited, detached from the rest, And thereby Labouring under many Difficulties, And that our afores^d Work may be rendered Usefull to your Majesty (and thereby have its' designed Effect) bestow upon said Fortifications for the Use of your Majesty therein, A Number of Cannon; As may be Consistent with your Majesty's Royal Pleasure.

May this Instance of our Duty and Loyalty find Acceptance, And may we take leave to Assure Your Majesty that the Prospect of Happiness displayed by the hand of providence in your Majesty's Glorious Reign is matter of Unutterable Joys, And that there is nothing on Earth that we pray for with more Constancy and Sincerity than that your Majesty, who has been the Means (by the Favour of God) of preserving and Distributing the Blessings of peace to all your Subjects (Notwithstanding the mighty Efforts of your Enemies to disturb the same) May after a long Continuance in the full Fruition of all Earthly Blessings be Translated into Heaven and be a happy Sharer of the inestimable Blessings of the prince of Peace, the sure reward of Virtue: and That the Happiness of Great Britain may be made lasting and Continue to future Generations, By the Succession of Your Majestys Royal Heirs til' time shall Cease.

Sign'd in the Name and behalf of the General
Assembly of said Colony and by

J. JENKS Gov^r

RICHARD WARD¹ TO THE MASSACHUSETTS ASSEMBLY.NEWP.^T May 27th 1731*Gentlm*

The Assembly of this Colony, were much surprised at the averseness your Commissioners showed to settling the Boundarys between this Governm^t, and that Part of your Province late Plymouth Colony; from Pawtucket Falls North to the Massachusets South Line; and have ordered me² to acquaint you with it. and to Press you once more to appoint commissioners for the doing of the same; this Government are ready, and willing to Joyn with you therein: but if you Decline it; then to give us your Positive answer thereto; that wee may Proceed further in this Affair and lay the same before his Majestie for his Royal Determination thereof; which wee think will be Easily obtained there; his Majestys bounding of us on that part being so clearly and Conspicuously expressed in our Charter. However I could be glad it might be ended amongst ourselves as being unwilling to trouble his Majestie therewith, or the Board of Trade who have ordered us to give them Acc^t if any part of our Governm^t is controverted and by whom

Sign'd by order and in behalfe of the Gen^l Assem-

¹ Ward was prominent in Rhode Island from 1710 to his death, in 1763. For nineteen years he held the office of secretary or recorder, and also served as boundary commissioner and as attorney-general. In July, 1740, he was chosen governor by the Assembly on the death of Governor John Wanton, and held the position during the two following years. He was the father of Governor Samuel Ward and of Secretary Thomas Ward. Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 245.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 445, for the Act appointing the commission.

bly of his Majesties Colony of R^d Island &c by your
humble Servant

R WARD

[Endorsed:] Copy of Letter to Massachusetts abt
the Line.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR JENCKS.

LONDON 6mo. the 23^d 1731

Col^o Jencks

I writt thee of the 29th 4 mo. last to which I referr.
this now comes chiefly to accompany my acc^t in the
late Affair relating to opposing the Sugar Bill¹ which
besides what the N. Eng^d Agent paid amounts to
£221.12.10. 2/3ds whereof I charge to the Colony of
Rh^d Island being £147.15.3. the rema^r 1/3 to New-
Jersies. I was indeed surprized at the Sollicit^s Bill
when it was brought in, it being as much again as I
expected, but I dont know how to remedie it now;
the Council Fees w^{ch} Fra: Wilks² paid in this Busi-
ness was upw^{ds} of 100 guinys besides what I paid,
none of which fees of his Council I would admitt to
be brought into my acc^t, so that I savd considerable
that way. I sh^d be glad to know if the colony w^d
have me oppose it again next Sessions for I am in-

¹ The Sugar Bill referred to was enacted in 1733 (6 George II. c. 13), after two years of discussion. A petition against it, from Rhode Island (1733), was refused by the House of Commons on the ground that the Act was a money-bill. (*Parl. Hist.*, VIII. 1261.) It was intended to help the West India colonies, and imposed a duty of 6d. per gallon on molasses, 9d. per gallon on rum, 5s. per hundredweight on sugar imported from foreign colonies into the British plantations. It was imposed for three years, and extended by successive enactments. In 1764, the duties of the old Act were reduced one half, but other commodities were burdened.

² Agent for the colony of Connecticut, and later for Massachusetts.

formd the Barbadians will certainly have an other push for it then.

I am with due respects

Thy faithful fr^d

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

I believe the Barbads^s people would give or expend at lest £2000 sterl^s to obtain their end.

To Ball of my last acc^t due to me £ 11 3 0

To 2/3ds of the charg in opposing the

Sug^r Bill

145 15 3

due to R. P. . . . 156 15 3

To JOSEPH JENCKS Esq^r

Govern^r of Rhoad Island and Providence Plan-
tations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO DEPUTY-GOVERNOR WANTON.¹

LONDON Feb^r 4th 173½.

*John Wanton*²

Lo. Friend I rec^d the Letter from the council of Rhode Island, without Date, relating to a controversy arising in your Colony about the *Act for Emitting Sixty Thousand Pounds in Bills of Credit*. I have also another from *Samuel Vernon* and other Assistants of the 12th of September last and one Since from the *Speaker* and *Secretary* in Behalf of the Gen-

¹ Copied from the Foster Papers, II. 147, in the Rhode Island Historical Society.

² John Wanton was deputy-governor of Rhode Island in 1721 and from 1729 to 1734, when, upon the death of his brother, Governor William Wanton, he was elected to the vacant place, and served the colony as governor until his death, in 1742.

eral Court of the Second of Nov^r upon the aforesaid Subject.¹

I [am] very Sorry that any such Difference should have happened for if prosecuted here I doubt it will be a Means of laying ourselves open and be attended with ill Consequences from such who are no Friends *to the Northern Colonies* for preventing of which nothing shall be wanting on my part for the Good of the Government.

When the 2 first Letters come I was gone a Journey to my Daughters in the Country and T. Sandford² delivered the Representation N^o 1. which was lodged at the Board of Trade and the other Two at the Duke of Newcastles office *of all which I have obtained Copies which comes herewith* (the Names excepted)

Those at the Dukes Office an Order of Reference was made on them to the Board of Trade But I used my Endeavour that they might be stopped from being carried to the Office or prosecuted indeed any further. I acquainting Sandford I was in hopes the Difference might be made up and ended in the Country And that We might expect such Notice I hoped in a Little Time &c. at length came Gov^r Jenckes's Letter to him not to deliver his Petition (if it was not done already), But he says as it was delivered and a Reference thereon to the Board of Trade he must proceed having given his Promise to

¹ These documents are not in the archives. For a notice of the controversy referred to, see p. xxiv of the *Introduction*.

² Thomas Sandford, a London merchant doing business for the colony, to whom the complaints from Rhode Island were sent. Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 105.

the Gen^{le} who writ to him about it I told him the Speaker and Secretary of the Colony writ Me as from the General Court. That the Gov^r had writ him not only not to deliver the Petition if it was not already dd, but if it was delivered not to prosecute it which he denyed alledging he had no such Order not to prosecute if it was dd. I entreated him all I could to forbear at least till he had heard again from Rhode Island setting forth the Ill Tendency it might be of to the Colony and writ him a Letter Also a Copy whereof comes inclosed.¹ And all I could get from him was he would keep it a little longer by him from carrying it to the Board of Trade But am afraid shall not be able to prevail with him to forbear long. If I cannot I shall do the best I can in opposing it and vindicate the Colony in the best Manner I am able. My Endeavour however having had some Effect in keeping it hitherto back will be of Service for the Lords of Trade are drawing up a Representation of the State of the Plantations to lay before the House of Commons which will be I believe presented in 3 or 4 Days at farthest and they will not have the Opportunity of Misrepresenting us to such a Degree as if the Governors Petition and the Referrence was actually before them, I wish the Gentlemen (many of whom are my Friends too) would duly [appreciate] the evil Tendency and bad Consequences of this their Undertaking and were thoroughly Sensible of the valuable Privileges they enjoy above many Provinces in our Plantations. I am of opinion they would then not set so light by them which if

¹ See the following document.

by these Means should be lost, I dare engage they would heartily repent of their Rashness when too late.

I am gratefully to acknowledge the due Care the Colony has taken for my Supply. Having received the Two Hundred Pounds Sterling remitted Me by Bill of Exchange and the Forty Three Ounces of Gold all from George Goulding and Jos. Whipple¹ which I give the Colony Credit for and shall give a sure Account of

The West India Gentlemen are not quiet yet, but as We expected have began again in the House of Commons who have already ordered a Bill to be brought in for the better securing and encouraging the Trade of the Sugar Colonies² &c which was read a first Time and ordered to be read a second Time the 15th Instant against which Time I shall Petition in Behalf of Rhode Island and oppose it what I can. There are three Petitions against the Bill read yesterday.

The New York People having no Agent here at present have sent over this year to oppose such an Act from passing and committed the Care of it to certain Merchants here who have spoke to Me to assist in the present Case which I agreed to and assisted in drawing up their Case, one whereof I send inclosed. In the present Bill they have left out the Restriction of sending Horses and Lumber to the Foreign Plantations but we think in a Manner this is as bad as the old Bill for to what Purpose will it be to

¹ See vote of the Assembly in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 462.

² See note to letter of 6 mo. (August) 23, 1731.

have Liberty to send away our Commodities if we cannot have Returns for them? What Success we shall have I know not but I believe it will be a hard Struggle. We have lost our best Evidence this Time Capⁿ Fair Hall he being won over by the Berbadions to their Side by being appointed Secretary to that Island a confidential Post which is certainly owing to the Opportunity he had in appearing for us last year. I am with due Respects to the General Court
 Their Faithful Friend

R. PARTRIDGE

[Note appended. — "The Foregoing Letter is copied from the Original, in the Handwriting of M^r Partridge. I passed the Day at the House of Moses Brown Esq. in Providence, on Monday, September 12th, 1815. when he lent Me the said Letter, with the Copies mentioned in it, of Gov^r Jenckes's Petition to the King, The Petition from Newport to the King, and M^r Partridge's Letters to Thos. Sandford and John Wanton, all which had been left in the Grand Committee's Office kept by those who signed the Bills of Public Credit, from which office M^r Brown rescued them."]

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO THOMAS SANDFORD.¹

LONDON 12^{mo} 2^d 1731

*Tho^s Sandford,*²

I must once more entreat Thee to forbear delivering the Petition of Governor Jenckes to the Lords of Trade though there be a Reference upon it from the Secretary of States Office For it is like to prove of very ill Consequence to the Colony of Rhode Island if it should be, and I think thou mayst be very *very* well Justified in keeping it till thou writest to the Governor and hast rec^d his further Directions

¹ Copied from the Foster Papers, II. 146, in the Rhode Island Historical Society. Sent to Deputy-Governor Wanton in Partridge's letter of February 4, 1731.

² See note on p. 22.

therein, for his Writing thee to keep it if not yet deliverd because [of] these Words being in it (Viz:) "*That of his Majestys Determining whether the Governor of this Colony has a Negative Vote in the General Assembly or not*" shews his Inadvertancy as to that Particular, and that he had rather it should be left out and indeed should that now come in Dispute here it might have a very ill Effect as it may happen in Respect to former Acts as well as what relates to a late Act pass'd there and put the Colony in Confusion, which no doubt the Governor was sensible of made him change his Mind and inasmuch as thou hast the Petition still by thee I entreat thee to keep it till thou hast his Answer otherwise it will not only affect and prejudice the Colony in General but even those particular Persons themselves who joined with the Governor in it. thy Favour herein will be a great Service to the Colony and an Obligation on

Thy Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO DEPUTY-GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 3^d mo. the 3. 1732.

My ffr^d. John Wanton

In my last to thee of the 6 ult I gave thee some acc^t relating to the passing the Sugar Bill¹ in the House of Commons and that it was car^d up to the Lords where we followd it and petitiond against it, where also after many appointm^{ts} and some Hearings we appeard with Council for the last time, which was

¹ See note on p. 19.

the 25th past. I think the Council had attended for the other several northern Colonies and were paid 5 pounds at least, who were Sergeant Darnel,¹ Council^r Strange² and Rider,³ and myself for the Colonies I represent, the 2 first Council were heard at the Bar of the House of Lords some time since, and the last day Rider and myself only, and after that 3 of our witnesses only out of 10 or 12 were examin'd, and then we were ord^d to withdraw, upon w^{ch} the Lords adjourn'd the further Consideration of the affair for 8 days and before the time came about put it off again for a month without so much as hearing one of the Council plead on the other side in favour of the Bill, so that there is an end of it for this year.

I am in hopes the West India Gentlemen now have enough of it that they will scarce give us any further trouble an other Sessions. I will not say my appearing as Council was the occasion of our Success, but this I beleive none will deny but the Lords gave as due attention to it as to any of the Council that went before and that after that day would hear no more of it, concluding that it was a Bill not fitt to pass. but I am told that it is intended next Sessions of Parliam^t to lay a duty on Foreign Rum and Molasses imported into our Northⁿ Colonies to prevent w^{ch}, Esq Oglethorpe⁴ a member of the house of

¹ Probably Sir John Darnall, a successful lawyer, who was made sergeant-at-law in 1714, and knighted in 1724. He died in 1735.

² Sir John Strange (1696-1754), called to the bar in 1718, King's counsel in 1736, solicitor-general from 1737-1742, and master of the rolls and member of the privy council in 1750. Strange's *Reports* were published after his death by his son. Five editions were printed.

³ Sir Dudley Ryder (1691-1756), made solicitor-general in 1733, attorney-general in 1737, and lord chief justice of the King's Bench in 1754.

⁴ James Oglethorpe, member for Haslemere, and founder of the colony of Georgia.

Commons (with whom I have lately had a pretty deal of discourse and who is our hearty Friend) thinks it most advisable for the Northern Colonies to do it first themselves, but this must be left to your consideration whether you will do it or try our Success again in the opposition of Such a Bill if it Should be brought into the House; Our opposition in the Course of the Affair this Sessions was attended with the more difficulty in that the Ministry wth S^r R—— W——¹ appeard on the division in the House of Commons against us, and Cap^t Hall who was a good Witness for us last Year deserted us and was drawn over to the side of the West India Gentlemⁿ against us and indeed we were once very apprehensive and had heard the Lords intended to pass the Bill for 3 Years and that the West Indians had some assurances given them it sho^d, but these difficulties great as they appeard we have at length surmounted and I think I may venture to say fairly beat them out of it. the Expense has been pretty large a great deale more than last year but is now born among Six Agents of us on our side so that my part will be less than last year. I must pay part of Council fees at the House of Comons, but I save all that at the Lords — for I employd none, yet hope our Colony will not think it amiss if I charge some thing of that article for myself.

As for the affair of the Complaints agst Rh^d Island, the L^{ds} of Trade have referrd the papers w^{ch} relate to them to the Attourney and Sollicit^r General for

¹ Sir Robert Walpole, First Lord of the Treasury and leader of the House of Commons.

their opinion¹ and I have directed my Soll^r to draw up a Case and attend them upon it and who must each have a suitable fee, there are some Queries of Govern^r Jencks w^{ch} I have not yet got a Coppy of, but before any thing be done the attourny General is of opinion we ought to have them, and I dont think it will be speedily Issued, tho' it may be attended with Expenses and trouble, but my diligence shall not be wanting to serve the Colony to my utmost, hoping after all nothing will come of it in prejudice of our Charter.

I am with due respects to the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Thy faithfull friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

As my trouble in attending and serving the Colony Interest is considerable I will referr mySelf to them whether they will judge me deserving of their advancing [my] Salary or not, and thy good offices herein shall be gratefully acknowledged. R P.

To JOHN WANTON Esq

Deputy Govern^r of Rhoad Island and Providence Plantations

¹ See note to letter of July 10, 1732.

JOSEPH JENCKS¹ TO THE GOVERNOR, COUNCIL, AND HOUSE
OF DEPUTIES.

*To the Hon^{ble} the Gov^r Council and house of Deputys
Gen^tmen*

I being Now just upon removing to my own habitation, and not Expecting ever to meet with any of you in this place again² do acc^t it my duty with the greatest regard to Take my Leve of you, and I can truly Say it is my hearty desire that not only your-Selves but also Such others as may Succeed you in the Same Station you are Now in, May concert Such mesures as may (with the blesing of him that rules and governs all things) prove an Expedient to preserve and maintaine the Honour Interest and inEstimable privildges this Colony now Injoys.

And, Gen^tmen, I further desire that you will be pleased to appoint Some Sutable persons to Receive the Charter and Such other writings as are now in my keeping and do properly belong to the Colony.

And also that your Honours will please now to order what you See cause to allow me for my Last years Service.³ All which will greatly oblige him who is Gen^tmen

y^r Hon^{rs} very hum^{ble} Serv^t

J JENCKS

NEWP^t may 4th 1732

¹ After five years of service as governor, Joseph Jencks incurred the displeasure of the Assembly by his veto of a paper money bill, and lost the next election.

² Jencks was required to reside in Newport while governor of the colony.

³ The Assembly voted him £300. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 470.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM WANTON.¹

LOND^o 5th mo. or July 10. 1732

Col^o Wanton

Thine and the Speakers lett^s dated the 17. May together with the Inclosures I have recd. w^{ch} with what we had before will furnish us with answers to the Complaints² that are made against the Colony as much as is necessary. that affair lyes yet with the Attourny and Soll^r General for their Opinion, and there I am apt to think it is like to lay for some time, tho' the Board of Trade recomended Expedition to them, and before ever they make any Report I expect we shall have due notice to attend (I mean the Attourny and Solicitor General,) thou mayst depend that I, with my Soliciter will do our utmost in vindicating the Colony and asserting their Rights and Privileges and hope we shall be able to maintain them, tho' it will be attended with considerable Ex-pence, the Lords of Trade I doubt not are glad of any opportunity to lay hold off an advantage against the Charter Governmen^{ts} that if possible they may be resumd to the Crown. for I dont take them to be Friends to our Northern Colonies at all.

Inclosed I now send thee Copys of the Complain-ants' Address to the King and their Representations

¹ For an account of the Wanton family, see p. xxv of the *Introduction*.

² A Memorial against the issue of bills of credit, in 1731, was forwarded to the Lords of Trade, and petitions were sent from Governor Jencks and from the inhabitants of Rhode Island to the King. The matter was referred to Attorney-General Yorke and Solicitor-General Talbot, who gave (as is well known) the opinion that neither the governor of Rhode Island nor the King had power to annul or repeal an act of the General Assembly. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 457-461, and Arnold's *History of the State of Rhode Island*, II. 108.

to the Board of Trade, w^{ch} as I remember are the very individual I had from the Offices here and of w^{ch} I sent Copys before to the Deputy Gov^r except only the names were then not added;¹ w^{ch} I omitted hoping the matter might have been accomodated among yo^rSelves I am glad the late Gov^r Jencks has ord^d all prosecution in his name to cease I hope it will weaken their Cause and I shall not faile to make the proper use of it. T: Sanford has got the s^d Jencks letter and I doubt not but he will duely observe it.

Inclosed is my acc^t with the Colony the Ballance where of being £111 10. in their favour, so that there will be a further necessity of making me remittance w^{ch} I doubt not off: and in the mean time no mony shall be wanting necessary in our Cause —: I could not charge New Jersie with their proportion of Expence this year against the Sugar Bill having never yet their perticular orders about that Affair neither have they yet paid me what I was out of Pocket for their Part last year, the Ball^{ce} of their last acc^t being upw^{ds} of Two hun^d pounds Sterl due to me so I hope yo^r Colony will not think much of my not bringing in the Jersies this Year as last: I believe it cost N. York People this Sessions in the very same Affair upwards of £200 St^r and New Engl^d near £300.

I am with due respects to thy Self and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Their Faithfull friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

¹ See letter of February 4, 173 $\frac{1}{2}$

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

S^r.

The Bearer hereof John Peagram¹ Esq. being Deputed by Us pursuant to a Warrant from the Lords Commiss^{rs} of the Treasury to be Surveyor General of the Northern part of the Continent of America in the room of Devereux Bacon deceased. And he having received Instructions from Us for the more effectual putting in Execution the Laws relating to Trade and Navigation, We desire you will please to be assisting with your Authority to the s^d Peagram and the other Officers of the Customs under his Inspection as they shall have occasion to apply to you, and also that you will strictly command all Officers and Ministers employed under you to be assisting to them in putting in Execution the Laws against illegal Trade that the Service under our Managem^t may be effectually carried on. We are S^r

Your most humble Serv^{ts}

ROB^T BAYLIS

J STANLEY

CHARLES PEERS

J. EVELYN

CUSTOM H^o LONDON 12 Augth 1732.

To His Excellency the Governour and Commander in chief of His Majesty' Colony of Rhoad Island.

¹ Pegram held the office of Surveyor-General of Customs until the latter part of 1742. Several letters addressed by him to the governor and collector of Rhode Island respecting the cargo of a French ship driven into Newport by bad weather are printed in the *Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, 6 ser. IX. 210.

GOVERNOR WANTON TO THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF
THE LOWER HOUSE.

Its my oppinion that there be a Committy of both Houses consisting of two members each wth myself to inspect into and project something that may be for the relief of the Government as to these debts¹ which it is now unhappy under. also to put a stop that no further incouragement be given to the New London Society² as to therre Bills passing with us. also its my Oppinion that You finish all affairs that now comes before you and not to refer to May and June. those times being in the height of business in the Country and not possible then to dispatch any affairs. the business now before You is of Moment and must be dispatched. let no trifling excuse prevail wth You and its my Oppinion that you adjurn till Munday.

W^M. WANTON Gov^r27th Janu^r 173³.

¹ There seems to have been in circulation at the time over £120,000 of depreciated paper currency. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 457-461, for documents relating to the issue of bills of credit.

² The New London Society united for Trade and Commerce was incorporated in May, 1732, by the General Assembly of Connecticut (*Col. Rec. of Conn.*, VII. 390), as a joint-stock company for trading purposes. The charter of incorporation was repealed by the Connecticut Assembly in a special session of February 15, 1733, on the ground of "their presuming to strike and emit a certain number of bills of credit on their own society, whereby many honest people are in danger of being defrauded, and the peace of this government subverted." *Ibid.*, VII. 419. Over £9500 of these bills were called in and burned by order of the Assembly, and the issues to the amount of £15,000 were redeemed by the colony. *Ibid.*, VII. 453, 454.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LOND^o. 12mo. or Feby the 28th. 173³.*Col^o. Wanton*

I writt thee my last per Capt. Scutt of the 23. ult via Boston, since which I have none of thy favours. this now comes to acquaint thee that thro the restlessness of the West India Gentlemen (who have the ministry on their side), the House of Commons have lately come into Resolutions to impose a duty¹ upon Foreign Sug^r molases and Rum that shall be Imported into our Plantations, agreeable to the Votes here inclosed, and it is generally thought the Bill will pass; but I intend if I can be admitted, vigorously to oppose it at the Bar of the House first: for I am of opinion if such a Law take place, (besides the present Injury it will do), it will be rather worse in the consequence of it than the Bill of prohibition last year, because of the levying a Subsidy upon a Free People without their Knowledg agst their consent, who have the libertys and Immunitys granted them [of] Natural born Subjects, and when they have enough to do to raise Taxes for their own Support; besides it may be drawn into a President for the future, for by the same Rule that a British Parliam^t imposes a duty on the Kings Subjects abroad, who have no Representatives in the State here, they may from 4/ advance to 20/ — to £100, on different things, and so ad infinitum, which is an Infringm^t on Liberty and Property and as I apprehend a violation of the Right of the Subject. how

¹ See note on p. 19.

the Bill will succeed I cannot yet say, perhaps I may differ in my Sentiments from most other People here: but I shall not faile to advise thee further about it hereafter.

As to the other affair¹ relating to our Colony here it lyes yet dormant as it has done for some time. I am wth due respects to thy self and the Gentⁿ of the Council and Representatives

Thy faithfull friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To Col^o WILLIAM WANTON

Govern^r of Rhoad Island and Providence Plantations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

1 mo. the 3. 1733.

Gov^r. Wanton

It is realy a hardship upon me that I must loose part of my disburstm^{ts} when I appear in opposition to what (as I apprehend is) afoot here Injurious to the Plantations at any time. N. Jersie people owe me already £300. st^r and I can get no money from them for a considerable time past: so that now I must drop their Name in my petition and not make use of it at all or else lye still and let the Parliam^t do as they think best without my intermedling, w^{ch} yet I believe Rh^d Island Colony w^d not like neither, so that it is some difficulty upon me.

If therefore they w^d allow me one hund^d pounds a ye^r Sterl. for Seven Years I will be content with it

¹ See note on p. 30.

for my Salary and also pay all disburstm^{ts} Solicit^{er} and Council Fees for Rh^d Island Colony for that time out of it, which I pray thou wouldst propose if thou judgst it proper.

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

GOVERNOR BELCHER¹ TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Sir,

I received the Favour of Yours inclosing the Act² of your Assembly respecting the Gore,³ which I communicated to this Assembly in their late Session, And with this the Secretary covers the Act past here, agreeable to yours, and I shall be glad this Matter may be amicably Compromis'd.

Inclosed Your Honour has two Letters just as I received them from my Brother Partridge.

I wish you your Health, and am

Hono^{ble} Sir,

Your most humble Servant

J BELCHER

BOSTON April 30: 1733.

GOV^R WANTON

¹ Governor Jonathan Belcher of Massachusetts and New Hampshire from 1730 to 1741, and later governor of New Jersey. He was a tenacious upholder of the royal prerogative in the much-vexed questions of supplies, governor's salary, and the emissions of bills of credit. A sketch of his life is given in the preface to the Belcher Papers, *Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll.*, 6 ser. VI.

² The Act referred to authorized commissioners to determine the boundary between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 482.

³ The term "gore" signifies a small strip or tract of land lying between larger divisions.

GOVERNOR WANTON TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Gentlemen of the Council and House of Deputies

I am now to acquaint you that the Sudden occasion of my calling this Assembly sooner then the next Adjournement, is on the Account of the Death of Abraham Borden Esq^r late General Treasurer, And his Decease calling for the speedey Nomination and appointment of A Suitable Person to Succeed him and take Care of the General Treasury, which can't be left without with Safety, Renders me under an Obligation to call this unexpected Convention.

And Since we are now met I think it highly necessary to Represent to you that Fort George¹ Should be supplied with a Suitable number of Cannon as well for the Defence and Safeguard of this Colony as the Security of Navigation, w^{ch} will be of great Credit and Advantage to both, The Consideration whereof I heartily Recommend to this Assembly, and hope they'l thinke it proper to pass an Act, in Order to make a Suitable provision for the Same

It has been the Custom for the Free Men of each Town of this Colony to choose Deputies to Represent them in the General Assembly twice a Year and the Choice in all the Towns at Different Times, w^{ch} gives great Room for Ill Designing Persons to Create Divisions and Make parties amongst the Inhabitants by goeing from Town to Town to be present at each meeting in Order by their Subtill contrivances to get

¹ On Goat Island, at the mouth of Newport harbor. In the session of July, 1733, the Assembly voted an appropriation of £4000 to procure "cannon, carriages and other necessities, for Fort George." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 487.

in Such Persons as will suit their Turn's, Wherefore tis my opinion and I Recommend the Same to this Present Assembly for preventing the like for the Future that they will seriously consider this Matter, and pass an Act¹ that the Deputies shall be Chosen but once a Yeare hereafter and In each Town of this Colony on one and the Same Day, in Such convenient Time before the General Election as they Shall thinke most Suitable by which mean's an Assembly will always be kept in in being and Ready to be called on any Emergent Occasion without making a New Choice and is no wise contrary to the Terms of the Charter

These things and what others may be laid before you I make no Scruple of your best Endeavours for the publick Good. And you may Depend on a Readiness in me to joyn with you for that purpose being always ready and Willing to Shew how much I am the Governments and
Your Faithfull Freind,

W^M WANTON

[April or May, 1733.]

WILLIAM JENCKS² TO DEPUTY-GOVERNOR WANTON.

PROVIDENCE July 2^d 1733

Honourable S^r:

Since I Saw you at Newport I Spake with Cap^t Jn^o Foster of Attleborough one of the Men appointed

¹ Such an Act was passed by the Assembly held the second Monday in June, 1733. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 484.

² One of the committee appointed by the General Assembly to attend the commission at New London "to settle the boundary line of the gore of land adjoining to

by the Province to go to New London and he Informs me that they have appointed nine Gentlemen to Go to New London to open their Cause. S^r I Judge it Necessary to ad Two or three more to our Committy Least They Should Drown us with a Great Noise and I Should be very Glad if M^r Walton and Coll. Abbot Might be added and Such others as the Court may Think Proper. S^r I have appointed Coll: Abbot to Run a Line from Sowamset as far North as Pawtucket falls and to Draw a Map of the Same and for that Reason and Sundry others I think it Needfull for them to be there This Being what offers as Needfull from your Humble Servant

WILLIAM JENCKS

To Coll. JN^o WANTON Esq
Lieuten^t Governour, In Newport

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS TO JOHN PEAGRUM.

Mr Peagrum

Haveing, since our Secret^{rys} Letter of the 4 July last transmitting you an Act¹ passed the last Session of Parliament for the better securing and Encouraging the Trade of his Majestys Sugar Colonys in America, receiv'd directions from the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords Commiss^{rs} of his Majestys Treasury, for appointing Officers (if there be Occasion) at the Several Ports in

Attleborough with the Commissioners appointed by Massachusetts." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 484.

¹ The Act of 1733. See note on p. 19.

the Plantations to Manage, levy, Collect and account for the Dutys Which by the said Act are Laid upon all Rum Mellosses or Sugars of Forreign plantations when Imported into any British Colony or Plantation. We direct you if you find there is an Imediate occasion for appointing any Officers at any of the Ports under your Survey for carrying on the Service for the Present, to appoint such propper Persons as are absolutely necessary for that Purpose, and represent to us what additional Number of Officers at Each place will be really wanted to perform the duty for the Future and at what allowances, takeing care to Use all possible good Husbandry. And if you Appoint any Officers you are to take care they be under Oath and Security and acquaint us with their Names, Qualifications, and the Stations you have assign'd them, and what Salaries you think it will be propper to allow them for our further consideration We are

Your Loveing Friends

CHARLES PEERS

H HALE

ROBERT BAYLIS

JOHN HILL

CUSTOM H^o LONDON 1 Sept. 1733.

CHARLES CARKESSÉ TO JOHN PEAGRUM.

Sir

The Commiss^{rs} having in their Letter of the 1st of last Month acquainted you that they had recieved Directions from the Lords of the Treasury for ap-

pointing Officers (if there be occasion) at the Several Ports in the Plantations to manage and Collect the Duties laid by an Act of the last Session upon Sugar¹ &c. And directed you in pursuance thereof to appoint such Officers as you found absolutely necessary for that purpose at the several Ports under your Survey. And M^r Robert Robinson who formerly acted as Collector of Salem and Marblehead in New England having sustain'd several vexatious Suits and Suffer'd very much by some Seizures made by him in the Execution of his duty: I am directed by the Commiss^{rs} to recommend him to you to be appointed one of the additional Officers at some of the Ports under your Survey if you find there is a necessity for appointing any.

And you are to take care in that case that M^r Robinson be appointed to such a Station as shall be Suitable to his qualifications and abilities which I have in Command to signify to you and am Sir

Your most humble Serv^t

CHA: CARKESE Secry.

CUSTOM H^o LONDON 4th October 1733.

To JOHN PEAGRUM Esq^r Survey^r General of the
Northern part of the Continent of America.

GOVERNOR WANTON TO JOSIAH WILLARD.

S^r

I Receiv^d your's per Express, by Order of the General Assembly of the Province Respecting a Late Emission of Bills of Creditt in this Government.

¹ The Sugar Act of 1733. See note on p. 19.

The Gen^l Assembly of this Colony did at their Sessions held last July, pass an Act for the Emitting One hundred thousand pounds upon Loan, at 5 per C^t per Annum, on Land Security of Double the Value for a Medium of Trade (as former Banks have been Emitted) and the Interest thereof to be appropriated towards Discharging the Annual Debts of the Gov^{nt}.¹

I have Ordered the Sect^y to make out a Copy of the Act for your further Satisfaction, And I do assure the Gen^l Assembly of the Province we had an Especiale Regard for the good and Welfare of the Publick In said Emission. And I hope that the Gen^l Court of the Province will take Due Care that Trade and Business may not be Injured by a private Emission, now coming out without their Sanction, as I am Informed.

I am with great Respect to the Gen^l Court. S^r

Your very hum^{le} Serv^t

W^M. WANTON

NEWPORT 26th Octob. 1733

To JOSIAH WILLARD Esq. Sect^y of the Province
Boston.

JOHN PEAGRUM TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Sir

I have the faviour of Yo^r Hon^{rs} letter of the 4th Instant That M^r Robinson had Presented a Deputation from me to Act at Yo^r Port as Searcher and

¹ *Digest of 1744*, p. 172.

landwaiter w^{ch} Office I apprehend Necessary at Y^r Port tho'. I am So unhappy to Differ in Opinion wth Yo^r Hon^r and Council but as the Comm^{rs} has thot fit to leave it to my Judgm^t in My Instruction to appoint Such Officers as I Shall from time to time think Necessary acquainting them of the Same (w^{ch} I have done allready.) must Beg leave to insist that M^r Robinson be Sworn according. Tho' I am Very Sory any thing I Should do Should Not Meet wth Yo^r Hon^{rs} Approbation but as I think it my Duty and for the Service of His Maj^{ty}s Revenue I have Appointed one at this Port at Salem and New London at New York there was one before. and if I think it Necessary Shall Appoint more or I Should Not Act Agreeable to my Instructions.

I have here Inclosed you an Article of Instruction and likewise an Article of Instruction from his Maj^{ty} to the Several Govern^{rs} where I have the Hon^r of Being Surveyor Gen^l where his Maj^{ty} has forbid any Governour to interfere wth the Powers and Authority given by the Comm^{rs} of the Custom to the Surveyor Gen^{ls}.

M^r Robinson Bro^t me a letter likewise where the Comm^{rs} recommended him to be Employ'd In Some Part of my District a Copy of which he has and will Show Yo^r Hon^r if you incline to See it. I Shall be Very Sory if the revenue Should Suffer for want of his Being Sworn but if you will Not Suffer Officers to do their duty it Do's Not lye at my Door and forgive me in representing of it to the Comm^{rs} and

the Lords of the Treasury. Please to favour wth Yo^r
Answer and Yo^{ll}

Oblege Yo^r Hon^{rs} Most Obed^t Humble Sv^t

JN PEAGRUM

BOSTON 7 Jan^r 173³/₄.

To the Hon^{ble} WM WANTON Esq^r

INSTRUCTIONS TO JOHN PEAGRUM.¹

His Majesty having by an Article in the Instructions given to the Governours in the Plantations Explain'd the Power they have in relation to the Officers of the Customs Enclosed, we send you Copy thereof for your Government in Giving the Officers under your Inspections such Advice and Assistance as the service shall require — and if you Observe any of the Governours in the Plantations neglect Complying with His Majestys Pleasure signified therein you are to Represent the Case specially to us and lay before us Affidavit of the facts for our further directions.

And Whereas the Surveyors General of Our Customs in Our Plantations are Impowered in Case of the Vacancy of any of our Officers of the Customs by Death removal or otherwise to Appoint other Persons to Execute such Offices untill they Receive further directions from Our Comm^{ns} of our Treasury or our high Treasurer or Comm^{ns} of our Customs for

¹ Enclosed in Peagram's letter to Governor Wanton, of January 7.

the time being, but in regard the Districts of the said Surveyors Gen^l are very Extensive and that they are required at proper times to visit the Officers in the several Govern^{ts} under their Inspection and that it might happen that some of the Officers of our Customs in Our Province of — may Die in the time that Surveyor General is Absent in some Distant part of his District so that he Cannot receive Advice of such officers Death within a reasonable time and thereby make Provision for Caryin on the Service by Appointing some other Person in the room of the Officer who may happen to Die, therefore that there may be no Delay Given on that Occasion to the Masters of Ships or Merchants in there Dispatches, It is our further will and Pleasure in Case of such absence of the Surveyor General, or if he should happen to Die and in such Cases that you upon the Death of any Collector of our Customs within that our Province

Shall make Choice of a Person of known Loyalty, Experience, Diligence and Fidelity, to be Employ'd in Such Collectors Room for the purposes aforesaid untill the Surveyor General of Our Customs shall be advised thereof and Appoint another to succeed in their Places or that further Directions shall be given therein by our Comm^{ns} of our treasury or our high Treasurer or by the Comm^{ns} of our Customs for the time being which shall be signified taking Care that you do not under pretence of this Instruction Interfere with the Powers and authorities Given by the Comm^{ns} of our Customs to the said Surveyors General when they are able to put the same in Execution.

JOHN PEAGRUM TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Sr.

I have to Ask Pardon for a Mestake my Clerk made in a letter Should have been Sent you the 7th Instantt. I can^t tell what Paper he inclosed the Articles In wthout it was Some looss Draughts

for I found the letter I Design[ed] amongst the Papers in my Office. w^{ch} I have here Sent you

Yesterday arrived Cap^t Wingfield from London and I recd a letter from the Secretary to the Customs that the Lords of the Treasury had appointed me to Put in what Necessary Officers I Should think Proper (in my District) and the Bearer w^{ch} came wth Cap^t Wingfield was recomend^d to be Employ'd. I understand by M^r Kay¹ M^r Robinson has not Got Security and he can^t be Employ[d] without. I Shall take it a faviour you^{ll} return w^t Cover'd the Articles and your Answer whether you will Swear an Officer in or Not and yo^{ll} very Much Oblige

Yo^r most Humble Se^t

JN PEAGRUM

BOSTON, 21 Jan^r 173⁸/₄To the Hon^{ble} W^M WANTON Esq^r

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WILLIAM WANTON.

LOND^o 12 m^o or feb. 4. 173⁸/₄.*Col^k Wanton*

My last to thee was of the 5:8^{ber} last per Cap^t Wingfield, w^{ch} hope thou hast recd since which I

¹ Collector Nathaniel Kay, appointed by the Commissioners of Customs, at London.

have none from thee on the Colonys acc^t. I sent thee per Cap^t Draper 20 Meditⁿ passes w^{ch} I obtaind of the Lords of the Admiralty the charge thereof for the Instructions &c cost me £2. 8. 3.

I have at length obtaind from the Plantation Office (w^{ch} comes herewith) a Copy of the Lords of Trades Report to the King respecting the Complaints against the Colony in 1732¹ which I take to be exactly conformable to the opinion of the Attourney and Solicit^r General which I sent thee some time since ; and in as much as no provision was made in the Charter whereby the Crown might interfere in relation to the Laws so as they be not repugnant to the Laws of England, the matter of the s^d Complaints lyes dormant nothing being to be done therein by the King : and I am informd it is most prudent for me to let them remain so rather than to make any Stirr in it.

a Motion has been lately made in the House of Lords for putting down the Iron Furnaces² in the Plantations the matter whereof was referrd to a Committee accordingly.

I hope thy next will bring me some encouraging account of the Colonys doing something towards advancing my Salary.

As for publick news I referr thee to the inclosed prints : we continue yet in a State of tranquility but

¹ See note to letter of July 10, 1732.

² A *Representation* of the Lords of Trade to the House of Commons on the manufactures of the colonies, of February 15, 1733, states that the Governor of Rhode Island "informs us, That there are Iron Mines there, but not a 4th Part Iron enough to serve their own Use ; but he takes no Notice of any Sort of Manufacture set up there." *Historical Register*, XVIII. 47 (London, 1733).

know not how long it will last. I am with kind respects to thy self the Gentⁿ of the Council and House of Representatives

Thy faithfull friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

TO WILLIAM WANTON Esq

Govern^r of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

GOVERNOR BELCHER TO THE GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND.

Sir,

I am sorry I have Occasion to give Your Honour any new Trouble upon the Matters in Difference between the People in your Govern^t and ours (before you have answered our last Letter) and especially to complain to you of an Act of such Violence and Barbarity as exceeds every thing that has yet been done or even attempted by any of your People: The Actors of which I am perswaded, you will think, ought not to escape with Impunity. You will see by the inclosed Declaration, that one Jonathan Draper an Under Sheriff of the County of Suffolk within this Province, at his own House, which was never pretended to ly within the Govern^t of Rhoad Island, was in the Night Time assaulted by three Ruffians of your Colony; his House broken open, he beaten with Clubs in a most inhuman Manner to the Hazard of his Life, drag'd out of his House by the Hair of the Head, and carried off as a Prisoner, And all for Doing the Duty of his Office, and executing a law-

ful Warrant ; which he could not have refused without great Unfaithfulness and Incurring considerable Loss and Damage. This being an Outrage not to be parallel'd in any regular Governm^t and a Violation of the Laws of all humane Society, and committed within the Jurisdiction of this Governm^t where the Matter ought to be judicially inquired into ; I do now desire and demand of Your Honour and the Governm^t of Rhoad Island, That you deliver up to Justice the Authors of this Villany ; viz, Hezediah Comestock,¹ Samuel Staples and Alexander Gowdy, that they may be proceeded against in the Courts of Law in the County of Suffolk where the Facts were committed. I desire you would send me an Answer as soon as may be, That I may the better judge what further Methods are to be taken in the Case. There are other Proofs of the Matters of Fact contained in this Declaration, but they cannot be presently had ; But, as soon as they come to Hand, I shall send you Copies, if there be any Need of them.

I am

Sir,

Your Honours very humble Serv^t

J. BELCHER

BOSTON, March 5, 173 $\frac{3}{4}$.

¹ See note on p. 59.

DEPOSITION OF JONATHAN DRAPER.¹

To his Excellency Jonathan Belcher Esq^r. Captain General and Governour in Cheif in and over His Majestys Province of the Massachusetts bay and to the hono^{ble} His Majestys Council For the said Province.

The Declaration of Jonathan Draper of Bellingham in the County of Suffolk and one of the Deputy Sheriffs within the said County :

The said Draper saith, That on the third day of March instant being the Lords day in the Evening there came to the Dwellinghouse of the s^d Draper one Hezediah Comestock of Smithfield in the Colony of Rhode Island husbandman who knocked at the door of s^d house, when the said Draper asked who is there; the said Comestock said a Friend, then Draper went to the Door and partly opened it to see who was there, and discovering the s^d Comestock, he told him he should not come in, he said he came to do him the said Draper no hurt, For he was come to Sea what his demands was concerning Richard Oldridge (who was committed to prison for not paying his rates) to see if they could make up matters; the said Draper asked him where he came from, he answered he came from Boston, to which the s^d Draper replied, if he the said Comestock came from Boston, he might have Seen the *mittimus* by which the said Oldrich was Committed to Goal, which would have satisfied him what was due, and while the said Draper was shifting his Cloaths and putting on his Shoes, the s^d Comestock took hold of the Deponent and

¹ Enclosed in Belcher's letter of March 5, 1733.

told him he should go along with him, then Draper asked him to let him dress himself, but Comestock would not let him; Then Draper bid his wife lock the door, and thereupon Comestock run to the door and cryed aloud for help, and then Draper bid his wife run out at the back Door and cry murder that so one Silvanus Scot who lives about thirty rod off might hear her, soon after came Samuel Staples, Alexander Gowdy both of Smithfield afores^d husbandmen with Clubbs in their hands to the said Drapers house, and Comestock bid them stave the door open, and the said Draper forbid them, but they Stove the door open and brake the lock of the door and came into the s^d Drapers house, then they delivered Comestock a Clubb, and he knockt him down and Struck him with it Several blows on the head and Face and they halled him out of doors, Staples dragging him by the hair of his head and told him he must go along with them, then Draper asked them to let him get his hat, but Stap[1]es forced him away without his hat and knockt him down three Several times, then they bid the said Draper get upon Comestocks horse or else the s^d Samuel Staples told him he would knock his brains out, so that the s^d Draper rid behind Comestock some considerable time, and as the said Draper rid along Comestock Swore by God Several times that if he the said Draper offered to get off the horse he would be the death of him, and that he would make a Sacrifice of him For the Devil, notwithstanding the s^d Draper took his opportunity and jumpt off the horse, Stap[1]es and Gowdy being on foot behind where-

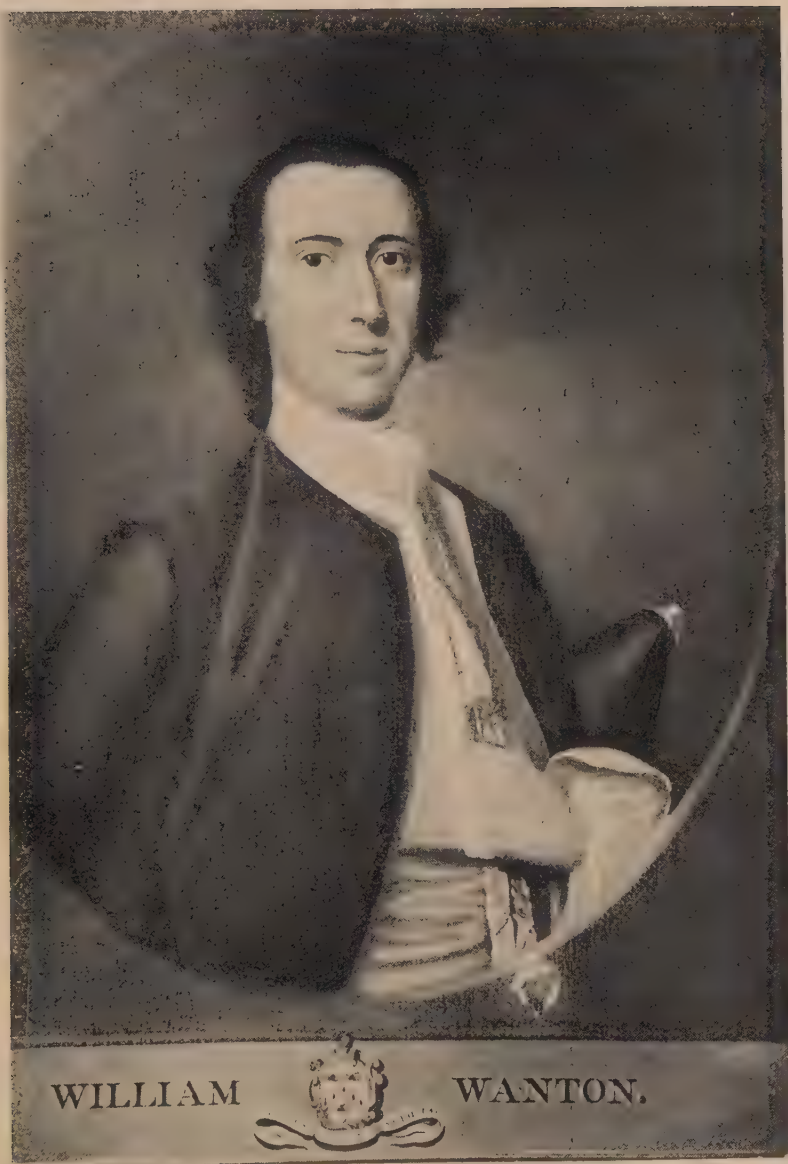
upon Comestock said the damn'd Devil was gone, and the s^d Draper run through the bushes, and got to the house of one Benjamin Thompson in Bellingham where he Found Benj^a Thompson, Samuel Darling and Tho^s Holbrook who were coming to the assistance of the s^d Draper and they with Richard Blood Ebenezer Perry and others kept Guard that night, and the next day viz^t on Munday last he set out from thence with the said Blood for Boston in order to make known to Your Excellency and Honours the truth of the Facts, and to pray for redress in the premisses

JONATHAN DRAPER

A true Copy Examined per J WILLARD Secry.

Richard Blood of Bellingham husbandman saith That on the last Lords Day Evening about Seven a Clock he hearing that Jon^a Draper was apprehended and carried to the house of Benjamin Thompson, went to the s^d Thompsons house and Found the s^d Draper very much bruised and his Face very bloody. And the Depon^t Seing Silvanus Scot who is near Neighbour to the s^d Draper asked him why he did not go out to help the s^d Draper, Scot said the reason was because they threatened to knock him down, and the Depon^t asked who threatened him he said then Sam^l Staples and afterwards the s^d Scot told another man he knew not the men that assaulted Draper; altho' he afterwards in talk owned that Comestock came to his house and enquired of him the Sabbath Day Evening, whether Draper was at home; so that the Depon^t has reason to think that Scot was privy to the s^d Comestocks evil Design; And further saith not.

RICHARD BLOOD



1732-1733

Jon^a Draper and Richard Blood made oath to the Truth of their respective Depositions before written by them Subscribed in His Majestys Sup^r Court of Judicature at Boston March 5th 1733 being taken by the Direction of his Excellency the Governour and Council.

Att^d BENJ^A ROLFE Cler

A true Copy Exam^d per J WILLARD Secry.

JOHN PEAGRUM TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

S^r:

I had the favour of Yo^{rs} w^{ch} I should have answer'd by the return of the Post: but had then tho^{ts} of waiting upon you MySelf and if you had refused to Swear Mr Robinson I Should have done it.

Affairs Since have Prevented my Coming, but M^r Achmuty having Business w^{ch} call'd him to Rhode Island, I have desired him to be the Bearer of this. and to Satisfie your Hon^r I Have nothing to do wth Yo^r Assemblys but only wth the Commander In Cheif. and am Perswaded when you are Rightly Informd of the Matter you will Comply wth My request and Not Oblige me to Persue Methods w^{ch} May be of Ill Consequence to Yo^r Colony

I am S^r wth Great Respects

Yo^r Hon^{rs} Most Humble Se^t

JN PEAGRUM

BOSTON 22 March 1733.

To the Hon^{ble} W^M WANTON

WILLIAM JENCKS ¹ TO DEPUTY-GOVERNOR WANTON.PROVIDENCE March the 23^d 173^d₄*Honourable Sir*

I understand that the Gov^r of Boston has sent to desire our Government to send Hasadiah Comstock and others to Boston there to Answer for the villiny they Committed against one Draper, I am of opinion if, our Government should give a flat denial to send them, and should seem there by to Countenance such actions. it Would appear very black against us in England, therefore if I may adventure to advise in the affair I am of opinion that it Would be advisable for us to send a Letter to Boston signifying our obhorance to such actions, and the care that has been taken for the due punishment there of by ordering our Justices to Examin the partys, and notefying Draper to be present with his Evidence to prove his charge but he Not appearing nothing could be done, and as to our sending them to boston in order to their tryal there, I think it would be Requeset to Inform them that there is a Controvercy betwixt the Governments Respecting the bounds, and that it would be very unReasonable to send the men to Boston for their tryal if the fact was Committed with in our Jurysdiction, and therefore I would make them this offer that in case they will agree and settle the bounds with us betwixt the Governments, then if it doth appear that the fact complained of was Committed with in their Jurysdiction, we will send the

¹ Jencks was deputy for Providence in 1727, and in 1728 served upon a committee appointed by the Assembly to assist, or instruct, the Joint Boundary Commission.

men and if the Jurysdiction prove to be ours then Draper may prosecute them here, where he shall be sure to have Justice and with all I would Inform them that we think there is the same Reason that they should send Cap^t foster Samuel Tilver and others to us who are guilty of as bad facts and of the same Nature, if after the settlement of the bounds it doth appear that the s^d facts were Committed in our Colony as we think they were. these few hints being what offers at present from your assured friend and servant

WILLIAM JENCKS

To the Hon^{ble} JOHN WANTON
Dep Gov^r at Newport

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 2^d mo: or Apr. 30: 1734

Gov^r. Wanton

My last to thee was of the 4 12 mo. per Cap^t Bonner via Boston, since which the House of Lords dropt the affair relating to Iron Manufact^{rs}.¹ but afterwards came to some warm Resolutions respecting the Plantations on the Continent, a Copy whereof I judged

¹ On March 7, 1733, a committee was appointed by the House of Lords "to consider of the Representation of the Commissioners for Trade and Plantations, relating to the Laws made, Manufactures set up, and Trade carried on, in any of His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America, which may have affected the Trade, Navigation and Manufactures of this Kingdom." *Gentleman's Magazine* (1734), page 176. No further mention of such a committee is made in the reports of the sessions of 1734 and 1735, but in the *Report of the Hist. MSS. Com.*, XIV. 10, 5, is catalogued under "Journals of the House of Lords" a Report on Manufactures and Trade in the Colonies, delivered on April 5, 1734, by a committee appointed to investigate the subject.

it my duty to send thee which comes here inclosed. thou wilt see therein that the Judges are ordered to bring in a Bill pursuant to the s^d Resolution, next Session of Parliament. the great inconveniencys that will attend such a Law I think almost needless to point out, but this I would say that should it pass, in all probability a considerable sum of money must necessarily be expended annually at the Council Office and Board of Trade to get the Acts through here, in fees for Petitions Reports, References, and Royal Orders, besides the tedious delays that may happen — : please to communicate this to the General Court who if they shall judge proper it should be opposed let me know with full Instructions thereabout and I will do my utmost endeavour to serve them.

We continue here still in Peace; but a considerable Fleet of Men of War lye ready in the Downs to proceed when ever the Court shall think fitt to give orders. whether they will saile for the Baltick or the Mediteranian, or indeed any further than they are we know not yet.

I believe great endeavours are used on our Part that the English keep from intermedling by taking part in the quarrels of the Contending Partys if possibly it can be with honour and safety, so that at present I dont see there is any such thing can be as forming a Judgement whether our Peace will be lasting or a Rupture break out: time only must manifest it:

for the rest I referr to the inclosed Prints and re-

main with my Respects to thySelf the Gentlemen of
the Council and House of Representatives

Their ffaithfull friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

Inclosed is also the Representation of the Lords of
Trade to the House of Lords upon w^{ch} they ground
their Resolutions.

3 mo. the 4th. since the foregoing our daily Cour-
ant has the following paragraph viz — (of this day)

We are informed that the Squadron of Men of
War under the Command of S^r John Norris will sail
for the Mediteranean in Ten days time and will con-
sist of 25 Ships of the line, besides fireships &c.

W^M WANTON Esq

Govern^r of Rhode Island and Providence Plan-
tations

THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS TO THE GOV-
ERNOR¹ OF RHODE ISLAND.

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY.

Hon^{ble} Sir,

It is very unpleasant that We have Occasion, so
frequently to Complain of the Insults, hardships and
difficulties which the People in Yo^r Government, and
many times by direction of Your Authority, Offer
to His Majesty's Good and Peaceable Subjects of
this Province, living near the Line in the Towns of
Attleborough, Wrentham, Bellingham and Mendon;

¹ Governor John Wanton. See p. xvii of the *Introduction*.

did this Land¹ really belong to you (as we are abundantly persuaded it does not) Yet the method you have taken must be condemned by all impartial Men, nor would You Suffer any particular person in your Government who claimed an Estate that had been settled and possessed by another, time out of mind, to disturb and disquiet his Neighbour in such an Unheard of and vexatious manner. As Governm^{ts} expect Obedience and Subjection to their Laws and Orders, They certainly ought to sett Examples and Sacredly support, maintain, and adhere to the Grand Principles and Foundation of Governm^t Should this Government have Invaded, made Inroads and Reprizals upon the People who had been Settled and possessed by you from the beginning of yo^r Government, as you have done upon Us, What would there have been but a plain and open Warr, and how dishonourable as well as Offensive must this have been to Our most Gracious Sovereign. And what has been wanting to this Open State of War, but that this Governm^t after high and repeated provocations have judg'd it unjust to do by your People what you have done to Ours without any provocation at all. For men to be

¹ Hutchinson says in his *History of Massachusetts-Bay*, II. 400, that in his time the records of the boundary dispute between Rhode Island and Massachusetts had been destroyed, but that it was "certain that for divers years past the only part in controversy between the two governments was a small gore of land between Attleborough in the Massachusetts and the old township of Providence." The boundary was settled by a commission in 1740-41, and "To the surprize of Massachusetts, a line was determined which not only took from them the gore formerly in dispute, but the towns of Bristol, Tiverton and Little-Compton, and great part of Swanzey and Barrington." *Ibid.*, II. 401. A note states that this country was conquered by Massachusetts and Plymouth from Philip, and to prevent dispute expressly granted to Plymouth by Charles II. The matter was adjusted, so far as regards the colonial period, by the royal decree of 1746. See p. xviii of the *Introduction*.

dragged to Goal and fined exorbitant Sums for Paying or Gathering Taxes from People in a Town Constituted and Ordered to belong to this Government by a Law of the Province, that has the Royal Sanction, — for Your People to come into this Province even beyond your Own pretence, and Insult, Lay violent Hands Upon, and almost Murder a Public Officer, and then retire into Your Colony and pass with Impunity is truly extraordinary. We must therefore Insist that You Surrender Hezekiah Cumstock¹ Samuel Staples and Alexander Goudy all of Smithfield, who were Actors in that great abuse to Jonathan Draper an Under Sheriff, Or that You Assist by Yo^r Authority in Apprehending those Persons that they may be brought to tryal for the great Crime they are charged with, which was Committed in this Province beyond yo^r pretended Claim, If You shou'd refuse it, You thereby take such a Crime upon Yourself, as no Government can with any Colour defend.

And as unjustifiable seems to be the Suit now depending before yo^r General Assembly. Josselyn is prosecuted for doing that, which had been an inexcusable Crime in him to have Omitted. The King by a Public Act Ratified now above Thirty years ago, had committed this People to this Government, And the Government had committed them in this Affair of Taxes to the Constable, And is he a

¹ In the Assembly of June, 1734, it was voted that "Hezekiah Culmstock" be delivered to the authority of Massachusetts Bay, to have a trial "upon the complaint of Jonathan Draper, pursuant to the request of the Great and General Court of said Province of the Massachusetts Bay, by their letter, dated the 13th day of this instant June." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 498.

Criminal, for Informing those who thus Commanded him, of the difficulties he met with in doing what they Ordered? But We hope when Yo^r Assembly come to be fully apprized of the Circumstances of this Affair (Which We fear by some perhaps too much Engaged in the Controversy, have been very much concealed from them) They will see Justice done. If this Prosecution be just and reasonable, if the Constables are punishable for executing their Office now, they are likewise punishable for what they have done these Forty years and more. Was there ever an Instance of a man's being punish'd for any possessory Act in what he had Quietly possessed above Seventy years? Ought You not to have Waited 'till you had regularly dispossess'd Us? before You had punish'd Our People for Acting upon this Land or for Complaining when they were Obstructed? We do therefore hereby Demand and Insist that the Fines and Costs laid upon Sundry of Our Inhabitants by Yo^r Government, Should be remitted or reimbursed, particularly Henry Josselyn's, John Robins's, John Sweetland's, Benjamin Slack's, Benjamin Crabtree's, and Timothy Tingley's, and that You would take Care that Henry Josselyn be relieved under, or delivered from this unjust Prosecution

We are very lately Informed, that Jonathan Jenkes has made an Escape from His Majesty's Goal in the County of Bristol, And that Your Authority have been desired when met in Court at Providence, to return him to Justice, Which they then declined to do, tho' Jenkes was then present in Court. Should

Neighbouring Governments thus protect Criminals who fly from Justice, What Confusions must ensue, and what dishonour will be done His Majesty, Who is the Common Father of us all, and delights so much that Justice Should have free Course; We must therefore Press You to give Order, that he be delivered to the proper Officer in this Province that he may be proceeded with according to the Laws of this His Majesty's Government, And We have the more reason to Expect this, because We have been always ready to treat Your Authority in this manner, And deliver up all Criminals that have fled from Justice in Yo^r Government.

We desire Your Honour would Communicate this to Yo^r General Assembly and that We may have a speedy Answer, before the Rising of the General Court here, that We may determine according as the Answer shall be, in the present Session.

In the Name and by Order of the Great and General Court or Assembly

J WILLARD Secretary.

BOSTON June 13th 1734.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.¹

LOND^o 4th mo. the 29 1734.

Gov^r. Wanton

I have received from the late Gov^r thy Brother a letter dated Aprill the 19th last, with sundry papers and Instructions (per Cap^t Borden) relating to the

¹ See note on p. 62.

Boundaries¹ between yo^r Colony and the Province of the Massachus^{ts} Bay, which Affair I shall pursue in the best manner I can for the Colonys Interest, having already retaind the Attourney General as Council for us, and shall give thee advice as I proceed, but as it will be attended with considerable charge I must desire to be furnished with a further Supply of money, especialy if I must oppose the Bill² that is to be brought into the House of Lords next Sessions of Parliam^t relating to the Laws &c of the Northern Colonys as I advised the late Govern^r in my last per Cap^t Cary via Boston.

We have no Rupture yet with France or Spain which continues doubtfull still.

I am with kind respects Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

I understand the Massachus^{ts} Agent has got some acc^t of violence used or comitted by Rh^d Island People on some of theirs. Now if you have any proofs of the like usage on their side please let me have them.

TO JOHN WANTON Esq

Govern^r of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations In Newport.

¹ The petition of Rhode Island upon the Massachusetts boundary was dated April 19, 1734. It asserted that Massachusetts claimed about 20,000 acres east of Pawtucket River and the three-mile line east of Narragansett Bay, that were clearly within the limits of Rhode Island, as defined by the charter. The matter was turned over to the Board of Trade, and remained untouched for two years while the replies were in process of preparation.

² See note on p. 55.

THE SECRETARY OF RHODE ISLAND TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 6th September 1734

S^r

Your Letter of the 30th of April past¹ came safe to his Honour the Governour with the Report of the Committee of the House of Lords And I am ordered by the General Council to let You know that with great Concern they observed the Contents thereof, Concluding that if it should be pass'd into an Act would certainly prove very hurtfull and disadvantageous to this Constitution by losing the greatest Priviledge We have for a long Time enjoyed: Besides the Charges and Expences this Government would inevitably be put to in sending home their Laws for the Royal Approbation. Wherefore by the Council you are desired to pursue such Methods as are most proper and take the best Advice in order to prevent so great an Inconveniency as will unavoidably attend Us by the passing of such a Bill.

The Governor would have communicated your Letter and this Affair to the General Assembly that was to be held by Adjournment the last Month, Had it not accidentally fell through and was dissolved for want of some Members from the Main Land sufficient to constitute a Court. But designs to do it at their Setting the last Wednesday in next Month and afterwards You will have a more particular Account.

This Colony always paid a due Deference and Regard to any Orders and Instructions either from

¹ Not in the archives.

his Majesty or the Board of Trade And did immediately upon the Receipt of an Order from that Board repeal an Act for laying a Duty upon Slaves imported here, and have now no Act or Law for the encouraging any Manufacture whatsoever Saving the Whale and Codd Fishery: and have allowed a large Bounty to promote the raising of Hemp and Flax which was concluded might be of Service hereafter to Great Britain our Mother Country.

“As to the 3rd Resolution of the Committee of “Lords respecting the Governours of Rhode Island “and Connecticut taking the usual Oaths of Allegiance and Fidelity taken by other Governours and “entring into such Securities to his Majesty for the “due Observance of the Laws of Trade and Navigation and to the like Value as other Governours “of his Majesty’s Plantations in the presence of “such of his Majesty’s Governours as should be “from time to time appointed.” The making such a Law would be the greatest Detriment imaginable to the Colony, Because that after a Governour is elected on the first Wednesday in May according to Charter, no Person in This Colony can act in any Authority either Civil or Military throughout the Same till such Governour after elected has taken his Oath or Affirmation to the due Execution of that Office to qualify Himself to grant Commissions accordingly; Such Officers being always chosen at the same Sessions the Day after the Governour: The ill Consequences whereof every Person may clearly discern should such Governour be obliged

to do it before Any of his Majesty's Governours of another Province.

Sign'd by Order of the General Council

JAS MARTIN Secretary

To M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE Merchant
in London

THE SECRETARY OF RHODE ISLAND TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 20th December 1734

S^r

We expect You have before this Time received the Letter of the 6th September past signed by the Secretary by Order of the General Council Via Boston, with a Duplicate (But for fear of a Miscarriage You have herewith a Copy inclosed), It having been presented to Us and well approved of, wherefore You are desired to follow such Directions as is therein contained in the most proper Method.

We have had your Letter of the 29th of June past communicated to Us, wherein You acknowledge the receipt of our Appeal relating [to] the Gore,¹ which We hope is long since presented to his Majesty and the neighbouring Province ordered to be cited; If not done already desire it may be, as soon as You receive this: Because the Inhabitants of the Gore are extreamly oppressed by being haled to Goal and amerced in great Sums of Money As You may see by the Copies of the Judgments in the Courts of the

¹ In the session of December, 1733, it was "Voted and resolved, that the appeal to His Majesty (relating to the gore of land in controversy), presented to this Assembly, is approved of, and ordered forthwith to be sent home to His Majesty, in Great Britain, signed by His Honor, the Governor." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 491.

Province: So that unless the Difference about the Jurisdiction thereof is push'd forward for a speedy Determination; Or an Order obtained 'till then for a Suspension of the payment of any Rates and Taxes to the Province; It will prove the total Ruin and Destruction of a great many Families inhabiting thereon. You have herewith several Evidences relating to Violences that have been committed by the Officers of the Massachusetts Province on Sunday of the People, Whom We claim to be under our Jurisdiction, of which You may make a proper Application, Any other Papers that We shall think necessary in the Affair hereafter shall be transmitted, And You are desired to go on with this Appeal as expeditious as possibly You can (and suitable Remittances shall be made for that purpose) Which will further confirm the good Esteem we have of You, Although it has been questioned by some Persons, Whether the near Alliance You are in to the Governour of that Province¹ and an Agent to him in his own private Affairs; would not be prejudicial to Us in this Affair between the Governments? But We are of Opinion that You are, (As We have always found You to be) a Man of more Honour and Integrity and would sooner exert your Self in this than any other Matter, to avoid an Imputation.

Your Letters about the Augmentation of your Salary have been laid before Us, and We having a great deal of Business did rise without acting thereon: But upon the good Success of the Affairs You have now in Commission You may expect from

¹ Partridge was a brother-in-law of Governor Belcher.

Us a handsom Gratuity. We hope before this time You have received the Money from the Jersies for to defray the Expençe of their Quota of your last Account about the Sugar Bill, and given this Colony Credit for the Same, if not received desire You will press them forward to make a Remittance for that purpose.

We understand that Col^o Lewis Morris the late Supreme Judge of the Province of New York is embarked for London, Where if He should arrive You are desired to advise with him about the Affair of the Gore, He being well acquainted therewith having had the perusall of all the Papers and partly concerned in drawing the State of the Case signed by our Commissioners already sent You.

Sign'd by Order of his Honour the Governor

In the Behalf of the General Assembly

JAS. MARTIN Secretary

To M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE Merchant

In London

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 11 m^o the 29. 1734.

Gov^r. Wanton

Thine of the 14. of the 6 mo. and Sec^y Martins of 6 7^{ber} I have recd and observe the Contents; I see the Affair I writt thee of relating to the Resolutions of the Lords last Sessions of Parliam^t was not laid before yo^r Assembly but that it was intended to be done the next Sessions — depend upon it I shall exert myself jointly with the other Agents in oppo-

sition to the Bill intended to be brought in by the Judges, when ever it is, and comes under consideration in the House of Lords: The Sessions of Parliament is now begun a few days since but nothing as yet of that kind has been exhibited, I have been up there 2 or 3 times already and due care must be taken to watch the proceedings, for that the Lords dont print their Votes as the Commons do.

I writt thee some time since and sent thee the Attourney Gen^{ls} opinion upon the Query I recd from thee, which I take to be altogether in thy favour — and hope it got safe to thy hand tho' I have had no letter from thee in answer to it or to the other matter I then writt thee about

As to our taking part in the War we are at as much uncertainty about it as ever by all that I can learn and what Judgm^t to form we know not but hope for a continuance of Tranquility. I send thee herewith the Kings Speech and the 2 Addresses with other prints and remain wth kind respects to thySelf and the Council and Assembly

Thy ffaithfull Frd

R^D PARTRIDGE

I have got the Rh^d Island Petition¹ exhibited to the King in Council, and from a Comittee it is referrd to the Lords of Trade, a Copy of the order of Reference comes inclosed.

¹ See note on p. 30.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO JAMES MARTIN.¹

LOND^o 2^a mo or April 10th 1735

James Martin

Thine of the 6th Sep^r and 20th Dec^r last I have received with the several Papers inclosed w^{ch} I hope will be of good Service to us, and as Col^o Morris² is now here, we shall get what light and information we can of him in relation to the present dispute of the Boundary with the Province of the Massachusetts, which I intend to prosecute (with all faithfulness to those whom I represent, And be assured that no consideration whatever shall byass me to forfeit the Trust reposed in me, but my zeal for the Interest and good of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, shall be the same (without the least variation) as it has all along hitherto been, (notwithstanding my Relationship³ to Gov^r Belcher) otherwise I sh^d be unworthy of the favour I have already receivd and of the continuation thereof I yet expect from the Colony, who I must needs own have generously kept me duely furnished with Supplis; And I hope the Gentlemen there have a better opinion of me than to imagine I cou'd be

¹ Secretary of the colony of Rhode Island.

² This is probably Colonel Lewis Morris, Jr., of Westchester, N. Y., who served in behalf of Rhode Island on a commission which met at New London, in 1733, to determine the Massachusetts-Rhode Island boundary, and was unable to come to an agreement. The Rhode Island Assembly voted a silver tankard, engraved with the arms of the colony, to each of her three commissioners, "with the acknowledgement of this General Assembly, for their assistance in endeavoring to reconcile and put an end to the dispute between the two governments." Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 112. Arnold quotes *Mass. Court Files*, III. 69-72. See for vote of the Assembly, *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 488, and letter of December 20, 1734.

³ Brother-in-law.

guilty either of doing or omitting any thing whereby their Interest might suffer or be prejudiced in the least. As to an Order for a Suspension of Taxes, I have discoursd my Solicitor upon it, and find it at present impracticable to be obtain'd: however we shall give it a further consideration. the Person I have employd as Solicit^r is also engag'd for New Hampsh^{re} in the dispute of the Boundaries on the other side wth the Massachusets which is now depending.¹

Our Colonys Petition has been some time since laid before the King in Council and referrd to a Committee who have since referrd it to the Lords Comis^{rs} for Trade and Plantations where it now lyes for their Report and where it must first receive an Examination in due form, In order whereto they have been pleas'd to order a Copy of our Petition to be sent to the Agent of the Province of the Massach^{ts} with directions for him to procure an answer to it in Six months time, as thou wilt see by a Copy of Secretary Popples letter to him here inclosed.

Inclosed is one of the Maps of the Colony we have got done here with a Plate which our Solicitor insisted upon to be realy necessary — one of which maps is also sent to Agent Wilks by the said Secretary.

As to the Resolutions² of the House of Lords respecting the Plantations (I heretofore writt the Govern^r off) The Judges have not yet brought in

¹ See letter of xber (December) 31, 1736.

² See letter of September 6, 1734.

any heads of a Bill as directed last Sessions of Parliament^t but that House have resolved to take into consideration on the 17 Instant the State of the Plantations and the Lords of Trades Report, w^{ch} being delayd so long I am in hopes they will scarce be able to go through with anything of that nature this Sessions, but if they should push it, I shall exert myself to the utmost in vindicating the Rights and priviledges of the Colony and duely observe their motions.

As to the Jersies I am sorry any difference sh^d arise touching the Charge I was at in opposing the Sugar Bill, and rather than there sh^d be any contest remaining, I will give the Colony Credit back for fifty Pounds out of the Article chargd in my last acc^t upon hopes of their coming in to an Augmentation of my Salary, though I dont expect one Shilling of it of the Jersies, they being considerably in arrears to me and I was only appointed Agent for 5 years as I remember.

I was given to expect in Gov^r Cranstons time I should be considerd when the Affair of the Boundaries with Connecticut¹ was ended, but after his death that matter dropt. and I hope the Colony will not postpone me till the present Affair is over, so relying on their generosity I remain with due Respects

Thy ffaithfull ffriend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To JAMES MARTIN Esq

Secretary of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations In Newport

¹ For an account of the Connecticut boundary, see p. xxii of the *Introduction*.

THE LORDS OF TRADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY
OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL, June the 17th 1735.

Sir,

His Majesty having been pleas'd, upon the address of the House of Commons dated the 12th of the last Month, to direct us to Prepare, in order to be laid before that House the next Session of Parliament, an Account of what Laws were in Force in any of His Majesty's Colonies in America on the 25th Day of March 1731, And what Laws have been since pass'd in any of them, by which any Duties or Impositions are laid on the Trade and Shipping of this Kingdom; As likewise an Account of what Duties or Impositions are now payable by an Act or Acts of Assembly in any of the British Colonies and Plantations in America, on the Importation and Exportation of Negroes, Wines, or other kind of Liquors or on any Goods, Wares or Merchandize and Shipping, distinguishing each Duty or Imposition. We desire, you will forthwith upon Receipt hereof, cause to be prepar'd, and transmit to Us as soon as possible a List of the said Laws and the Accounts before mentioned belonging to your Gov^t. So we bid you heartily farewell, and are,

Your very loving Friends and humble Servants,

FITZ WALTER

T. PELHAM

R. PLUMER

JON. ASHE

JA. BRUDENELL.

O. BRIDGEMAN

Hon^{ble} Gov^t and Comp^y of Rhode Island.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND TO THE
LORDS OF TRADE.

Hon^{ble} Sirs

In Obedience to his Majesty's Command signified to Us by your Letter of the 17th June past¹ relating to what Laws were in force in this Colony on the 25th March 1731 and what have been since pass'd laying any Duties or Impositions on the Trade or Shipping of Great Britain, Or any other Duties or Impositions now payable on the Importation or Exportation of Negroes Wines, or other kind of Liquors Or on any Goods, Wares or Merchandizes whatsoever: We do now in pursuance thereof inform You That We had not then nor have now any Act or Law in this Colony that lays any Duty or Imposition on the Trade or Shipping of Great Britain, Or on the Importation or Exportation of any Goods Wares or Merchandizes of any kind whatsoever, But some few Years before, We had only a Duty of £3 per head on Negroes imported from the West Indies (and then exempted therefrom All directly from Africa) Which Act was immediately repealed upon the receipt of an Order from Your Hon^{ble} Board. We heartily Salute You with the greatest Respect.

¹ See preceding letter.

Sign'd by Order and in behalf of the Governour
and Company of his Majesty's English Colony
of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in
New England

NEWPORT ON RHODE ISLAND

1st December 1735.

To the Right Hon^{ble} Lords Comm^{rs} for Trade and
Plantations London

GOVERNOR WANTON TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 1st Dec^r 1735

S^r

Your Letters to the Governour and Secretary have been communicated to Us, and we apprehend that We have already sent You Evidences sufficient to shew that the Plimouth Grant never reached the Lands in Controversy now with the Massachusetts Province by many Miles, And inclosed have sent You further Evidences of the late Gov^r Jenks and M^r Sprague to prove the continual Claims of this Colony thereto for near 70 Years back, We desire You to put forward this Affair with the greatest Expedition You possibly can, And for that purpose You may certainly expect to be furnished with a Supply the next Spring hoping in the mean time that the ballance now in your hands will be sufficient, But if not and You should want before then (Rather than our Cause should suffer) If You will advance the Money that shall be wanting 'till You have a Remittance, We will make You an Allowance for the Same.

Inclosed We have sent You a Letter open according to your Draught for the Right Hon^{ble} S^r Charles Wager¹ which You are desired to seal and subscribe and wait upon him with it praying his further good Offices and Assistance to Us in procuring the Cannon. And You have likewise inclosed a Letter to the Lords Comm^{rs} for Trade and Plantations wherein We have answered their Demand relating to any Act of this Colony laying Duties or Impositions on the Trade or Shipping of Great Britain Or any Goods Wares or Merchandizes whatsoever Having no Duty at all here either Inward or Outward.²

We might Once more press You to use your utmost Efforts against the passing any Bill upon the Resolutions of the Lords relating to the sending home our Laws for the Royal Approbation &c And as to what You write about the Augmentation of your Salary The General Assembly do not seem to incline to come into that Method But are willing to allow You a handsom Gratuity upon the Conclusion of this Affair against the Province, And You need not be under any Apprehension of being served now As You write You was upon the Determination of the Connecticut Boundary They being very unanimous to make You a suitable Compensation.

When You send any Packet again on the Colony's Affairs of any Bigness (Postage now running very high) We desire You'll put it under Cover to M^r Benjamin Bagnell Watchmaker in Boston who will take Care and transmit it here by some private Hand, there being always Opportunities from thence for such a purpose.

¹ See the following document.

² See preceding letter.

In the last Conference of the Meeting of the Commissioners¹ on the part of each Government at New London the Committee that attended for the Province for the Massachusetts Bay insisted very much that they had made a Purchase of the Lands in Controversy Which We allow, For our Dispute with them is not for the Property of the Lands, But only for the Right of Jurisdiction And therefore thought proper to give You a Hint of this Not knowing but they might make Use of the same Argum^t again at home

Sign'd by Ord^r of the Gen^l Assembly

JOHN WANTON Gov^r

To M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE

Merch^t in London

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND TO SIR
CHARLES WAGER.²

Hon^{ble} S^r

The Inhabitants of this Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations being sensible of your Regards and Readiness to serve them, Which You

¹ Commissioners to settle the disputed boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

² Enclosed in Wanton's letter of December 1. Charles Wager was the nephew of John Hull, a London merchant who removed to Newport, and by whom he was adopted. He served with Hull in several voyages across the Atlantic, and his gallant conduct attracted the attention of friends who were able to secure him a post in the royal navy, where he ultimately became first lord of the admiralty, and a member of the privy council. He has a monument in Westminster Abbey. The colony of Rhode Island relied much in its suit with Massachusetts upon Wager's local knowledge, as well as his disposition in favor of the home of his adoption. See Weeden's *Economic History of New England*, II. 600, and Sheffield's *Privateersmen of Newport*, pp. 11, 42.

have been pleased to demonstrate at all Times when Application has been made to You by our Agent (as He has inform'd Us) calls for our grateful Acknowledgement in Return thereof which I now make to You, Hon^{ble} S^r in their Behalf, praying a Continuance of Your further Favours as there shall be any Occasion Yet We hope that M^r Partridge will not at any Time be troublesom in waiting upon You, But as urgent Necessity shall urge Him to it

He lately informs Us likewise That upon a Petition referred from His Majesty in Council for a Supply of a Number of Cannon for our Fortification here (Upon the Foundation of our Address a few Years since) The Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations have been so good as to come into a Report in our Favour for a Grant of 20 Cannons and 20 Shotts for each Gun.

This comes therefore humbly to request That You would be pleased to favour Us so farr with a Continuation of your good Offices That the said Report may be carried on to effect, which will be a very signal Service to this Colony, who have within a few Years past been at the Expence of £15000 this Currency in building an intire new and regular Fortification capable of mounting 50 or 60 Cannons, Those We have had hitherto were but 12 in Number and they so old and decayed are hardly fit for any Use, But lately We have got 24 Pieces from London at our own Cost.

And considering this Colony has not put the Crown hitherto to any the least Expence or Charge

for its Support And that the well Fortifying It against any Invasion of an Enemy will be of great Consequence, As well to the Neighbouring Governments more immediately under the Crown as to the Government it Self, We humbly hope this our Request will be the more readily granted, and which will lay Us under Obligation in the most sensible and dutiful Manner to his sacred Majesty.

I hope You will Excuse the Trouble of this and heartily salute You with due Respects

In behalf of the Governour and Company of his Majesty's English Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in New England and am Hon^{ble} S^r Your most obedient and most devoted humble Serv^t

JA: MARTIN Secretary.

NEWPORT ON RHODE ISLAND

1st October 1735

To the Right Hon^{ble} S^r CHARLES WAGER

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 12 mo. the 6. 1735^½.

Gov^r. Wanton

I have recd thine of the 1st Decem^r last with the Papers inclosed¹ w^{ch} doubtless will be of Service to us: — I would gladly have the affair of that Controversy brought forward to a Hearing with all the expedition that well could be, and in order to it the Lords of Trade have been duely solicited to press

¹ See preceding letter.

the Massachusetts Agent for his answer which at length he has deliv^d in,¹ for till that was done there was no such thing as making any progress at that Board, which answer I Send thee herewith. my Solicitor informs me it contains great numbers of new facts as to which we have not sufficient Instructions hitherto — that it cannot be proper to move for a Hearing until such time as the Colony Shall have given particular information and taken further proofs wth relation to the Matters therein contained, and must wait your further directions thereabout.

I see the disposition of the Assembly as to my Salary, so do not intend to give them any further trouble about it.

I intend to take a proper opportunity to wait on Sir C. Wager with the letter but doubt it is too late to get anything done in that affair this Year

The preliminary Articles for a Peace between the late contending Powers at War² have been some time since agreed on and it is not doubted but a general Peace will ensue and tranquility restored to Europe which is doubtless very much owing to the endeavours of the King of Great Britain. I am Thy assured Fr^d

R^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r

Govern^r of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

¹ Arnold gives the date of the answer of Wilks, the Massachusetts agent, to the petition of Rhode Island as January 9, 1739. *History of Rhode Island*, II. 117.

² The war of the Polish succession. England and Holland submitted a plan of pacification which was finally rendered acceptable to France, Austria, and Spain, and signed at Vienna in 1735.

GOVERNOR WANTON TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 11th May 1736S^r

Yours of the 6th of February past¹ came safe with the Answer of the Massachusetts Agent to our Complaint, of which We shall take Care and fully answer such Matters of Fact as You have not Evidence already sufficient for, Having ordered a Committee for that purpose and desired to make what Dispatch they possibly can.

The Assembly only met this Time for the General Election and to choose their Officers both Civil and Military throughout the Government, and adjourn'd to the 2nd Monday in June for Business, and then You may expect to have a further Supply for the carrying on this Affair according to your Desire And likewise such further Instructions as will be necessary for the pressing forward this Matter to a speedy Determination

Sign'd in Behalf of the General Assembly

JOHN WANTON Gov^rTo M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE Merch^t

In London

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON xber the 31. 1736

Governour Wanton

I received thy letter dated the 11th of May last² intimating the receipt of the Massachusetts Agents

¹ See preceding letter.² See preceding letter.

Answer to our Complaint and that care would be taken to answer such matters of Fact as we had not already sufficient Evidence for &c — which yet are not come to my hands. when they do I shall with my Solicitor do my utmost for the Service and Interest of the Colony, but at present all things relating to that dispute lye still here and we are not able to proceed for want of yo^r Reply.

There has been a long dispute depending between the Massach^{ts} and N. Hampsh^r about their Boundaries¹ and at length it results after this manner — Commission^{rs} are Nominated by the Crown to examine into the Affair and as I think to fix the Bounds or to make Report of their Opinion in what manner they ought to be adjusted. the number of Commis^{rs} are Twenty, viz 5 out of the Council of Rhode Island 5 of N. York 5 of N. Jersie and 5 of Nova Scotia, but because these persons are appointed by the Crown at the recommendation of the L^{ds} of Trade the Massachusetts Agent if I am rightly informed intend to controvert the Nomination in as much as they were imposed on them without either Province having so much as the liberty of choosing any part of them. thus I thought it proper to give thee some hints of this affair and as they proceed in it thou mayst expect to have a further account from me. No Govern^r absolutely appointed for New York²

¹ A detailed account of the dispute and its settlement is given in Hutchinson's *Massachusetts Bay*, II. 382-391, where the statement is made that the commissioners were all proposed by the New Hampshire agent. See note to letter of 9ber (November) 3, 1738.

² Governor Cosby died in March, 1736. Lord Delaware was appointed in June, 1737.

yet. the King is still in Holland waiting only for a fair wind for his Return who has been absent this time longer than usual.

I herewith send thee sundry Prints for thy Amusement and with kind Respects remain

Thy faithfull fr^d

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

the Colony may depend upon the ability of our Solicitor¹ whom I have employd in the affair of the Boundaries with the Massachusets — for he has had a large Experience in things of that kind and scarce any equal to him or however to exceed him: he is the same as is employd for N. Hampsh^{re} against the Massach^{ts} and by the Penns of Pensilv^a against Lord Baltimore — about their Boundaries.

To JOHN WANTON Esq

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 3^d mo the 5. 1737

Govern^r. Wanton

nothing has happend here since I writt thee last affecting your Colony. all things lye dormant relating to the dispute with the Massachusets neither can any

¹ Ferdinando John Paris, a London solicitor, who was active in representing various colonial and individual interests during the thirty years from 1730 to 1760. Hutchinson alludes to him as "one of the first rate and who had a peculiar talent at slurring the characters of his antagonists. Many of his briefs which I have seen, abound in this way." *History of Massachusetts Bay*, II. 384.

further proceeding be made therein till I have a Reply to their paper, a Copy whereof I sent thee some time since.¹

This Sessions of Parliam^t is like to pass over without doing any thing relating to the Plantations in general, save that some endeavours have been used for bringing in a Bill for the encouraging the importation of pig Iron as well as bar Iron from the Plantations and for putting a Stop to the erecting or making for the future any Slitting Mills, in which affair they proceeded so far as to appoint a Committee who met often upon it examind several Evidences and at length brought in their Report, but yesterday they dropt it for this Sessions, that is it was put off for 6 weeks: before the end of which time the Parliam^t will break up — whether they will resume it the next Sessions time must discover. inclosed I send thee a News paper w^{ch} contains some considerations on the Subject — and am with respects to thy Self and the Gentlemen of the Council

Thy assured Friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations.

¹ Arnold says that on October 27, 1737, Partridge presented to the Board of Trade his answer to the memorial of the Massachusetts agent, combating his positions at great length, and under twenty heads of reply. *History of Rhode Island*, II. 118.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 8^{ber} the 18. 1737*Governour Wanton*

In answer to thine of the 4th 5th mo. last relating to our Solicitor Paris.¹ Above thou hast a Copy² of what he writt me on that head: I think indeed he might have acquainted me wth that affair w^{ch} I knew nothing off before, however I am fully perswaded he will act the just part with us in the Affair I have employ'd him in, and is the Same Solicitor the New Hamps^{re} Agent employd in their Business against the Massachusets about the^r Boundarys between them, wherein as I take it he has had Success,³ and I thought him the fitter to be employd for us, not doubting but he may be depended upon to do his best to serve us—alltho' I think he might have spared some expressions in his foregoing answer

I am with due Respects

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq

Governour of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations

¹ See notes to letter of Xber (December) 31, 1736.

² See the following document.

³ The commission for settling the New Hampshire boundary was issued April 9, 1737.

F. J. PARIS TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.¹

Sir

At my return to Town last night I mett your favour of the 20th of last month in relation to M^r M^cSparrans Affair, and take this first opportunity to acquaint you in answer thereto that I did write such Letter as therein enclosed to M^r ² Auchmuty, and that the Contents of it were true, and particularly it was thought very strange and arbitrary that, for the very same parcell of Land, the Colony should readily allow M^r Torrey an Appeal to the King but refuse one to M^r M^cSparran,³ and I am still of Opinion that had M^r M^cSparran prosecuted any Complaint as ag^t the Colony, for it and other irregularitys in his Affair, they could not have been justified. But I was very farr from inflaming that Affair, or endeavouring to aggravate matters. On the contrary my Clyent and my self both sought for peace.⁴ The Governor seems to think strange I should not acquaint you of this matter, especially as I am employed by you to Support the Colonys right to the Gore, but I believe upon recollection he and you both will think that those two different matters have no sort of relation each to the other. The Colony may be assured I

¹ Enclosed in preceding letter.

² Robert Auchmuty, agent for Massachusetts in the boundary case.

³ The reference is to the famous case of the Narragansett Church Lands, in which McSparran was plaintiff. For an account of the affair see Douglass's *Summary*, II. 104; Updike's *Episcopal Church in Rhode Island*, 68-82; *R. I. Hist. Coll.*, III. 123; Hazeltine's *Appeals from Colonial Courts*, in the *Report of the American Historical Association for 1894*, p. 340, *et seq.*

⁴ Dr. McSparran went to England in June, 1736, and returned in August, 1737. Updike's *Narragansett Church*, p. 191.

shall render them the most faithfull Service in relation to the Gore, As, on the other hand, I shall think I owe the same Duty to Mr M^cSparran in relation to his matter.

F. J. PARIS

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 2^d mo. 29th 1738

Govern^r. Wanton

I writt thee last of the 10th and 13th 12 moth last, via Boston, since which I have had none of thy favours, and now I can inform thee, that after several appointments of the Lords of Trade, we had a Hearing before them by Councel learned in the Law on the 25th and 28th Inst. for our Collony were Counc^{rs}. Murray¹ and Clark, the former, to wit, Murray is allowed I believe as eminent in his profession as any in England and indeed pleaded excellently well. during the course of the proceedings, I observ'd a disposition in the Lords for advising the King to appoint Commissioners to adjust (the dispute about the Gore of Land) between the two contending Colonys there upon the Spott, for they seem'd to observe from what was argued on both sides, that they did not agree as to the names of the Rivers or Places about the Boundarys, and that the names of them differ'd in their Spelling or being written, to what they were formerly, and therefore could not see it was possible upon considering the whole to decide it here — and yesterday after they broke up I went

¹ William Murray, Lord Mansfield. See note to letter of February 21, 1743.

to their Secretary to learn if I could what would be the purport of the Lords Report and find it will be as I apprehended as aforesaid, that is for appointing Commissioners out of some of the neighbouring Governments which is what the Concel for the Massachusetts very strenuously argued against and oppos'd at the Hearing, and therefore I take it a point gained in our favour, for I understand Esq^r Wilks intends to oppose the Report when it comes to the Committee of Council and then we are like to have another Struggle, so that this as usual will be a chargeable affair. it cost me 40 guineas bare Council fees at these 2 days of Hearing. I hope the Colony will soon make me some Remittance and in the mean time nothing shall be wanting on my part to serve their Interest.

As to the Sugar Act, that being now expired, the reviving of it is postponed and it is too late in the Sessions to do any thing in it this Parliament.

The House of Commons in a Committee of the whole House have come to several Resolutions relating to Iron in the Plantations, as for putting down the forges and Slitting Mills &c. upon which considerable debates arose without coming to any conclusion as to the ordering of a bill to be brought in and adjourn'd the further debates to the 2^d of next month but as there is so great an opposition to it and the Sessions like to break up in about 2 weeks time its thought it will drop. the Votes wherein the said Resolutions are, I send thee inclosed, but if they should conclude to bring in a Bill pursuant thereto, we intend to petition to be heard by Council against it.

The House of Commans have been very much taken up of late upon the Jamaica Merch^{ts} Complaints of the Depredations of the Spaniards¹ and have examined several Witnesses touching the plundering and Captures of Ships and barbarous usage of the Sailers — which has made a great noise, but its thought after all it will not produce a War with Spain (tho' I confess once I thought it could hardly be avoided) for our Ministry seems to be for using their utmost endeavours to have matters accomodated in a pacific way — and they say France is for interposing their good offices towards it, but the English seem to have but a mean opinion of their mediation as that it cannot but be expected they will be partial in favour of Spain. however preparations are making for fitting out a fleet of Men of War.

I was in the House of Commons when Murray² the Council for the West India Merchants Summ'd up the Evidence and proofs relating to the affair and heard the debates of the Members thereupon, some hints whereof I comitted to writing and send thee inclosed for thy amusement and am with respects, Thy assured Friend,

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

3^d mo. the 12. 1738

Since the foregoing the L^{ds} of Trade have made their Report to the Lords Committee of Council, a Copy whereof I send thee here inclosed, wherein thou

¹ The Assiento of 1713 was used as a cloak for smuggling operations by both English and colonial traders. The claim of Spain to the right of searching suspected vessels aroused great popular excitement in England, which resulted in the war of 1739. See "Debates in the Senate of Lilliput," *Gentleman's Magazine* (1738).

² See note on p. 86.

willt see they are for having Com^{rs} appointed in the Neighbouring Provinces to settle the Boundaries or dividing line, but we expect it will yet be controverted before the Lords Comittee by the Massach^{ts} Agent Fran^s Wilks. alltho' he may do so, yet I am apt to think the Report will be agreed to by the Committee also — and when the Board of Trade come to a Nomination of the Com^{rs} I shall take care that none of them be appointed out of the Colony of Connecticut, as I suppose they on the other hand will object agst New Hampsh^{re}.

The Sugar Bill ¹ w^{ch} for some time was postpon^d is now like to be renewed for 7 years, w^{ch} I suppose was principally done on acc^t of some other matters in it besides what related to the high dutys on Foreign Molosses &c imported into our Plantations. As for opposing it, I did not find any of the other Agents woud medle in it, and I consid^d the Charge wo^d be too heavy for one only to do it.

The Iron Bill is dropt for this Session,

Thine as before

R^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r

Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

¹ The provisions of the Sugar Bill of 1733 were three years later extended to all ships belonging to Great Britain (15 Geo. II. c. 33, f. 5), and the former statute was continued by successive enactments, the last bringing it to September, 1785. Stokes's *View of the Constitution of the British Colonies in North America and the West Indies*, p. 38.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 3 mo. 20th 1738*Gov^r. Wanton*

Alltho' the House of Commons have come to divers resolutions with respect to their Cramping the Plantations in making or manufacturing Iron, yet when a Bill was brought into the House for that purpose and read, there was a Negative soon put upon it and consequently thrown out or dropt intirely for this year, which Bill as it was Presented to the House for the extraordinariness of it obtained a copy of it and send thee herewith.¹

It's very probable the next Sessions of Parliam^t they will begin upon it again which I thought proper to hint to thee from

Thy real Fr^dR^D. PARTRIDGE

this day the King came to the House of Lords and after giving the Royal Assent to severall Acts of parliam^t put an end to this Sessions

Iron Bill.

[1738.]

A Bill for Encouraging the Making and Manufacturing of Bar Iron in Great Britain and preventing the Increase of Bar Iron and Iron Manufacturers in the Plantations.

Whereas the making of Bar Iron in Great Britain hath of late Years greatly decreased and the Manufactures made from Bar Iron in His Majestys Plantations have for some years last past greatly increased Now for preventing any prejudice and Incon-

¹ See the following document.

venience that may thereby ensue to His Majestys Subjects and for promoting and encouraging of Trade and Manufactures with in the Kingdom of Great Britain Be it Enacted by the Kings Most Excellent Majesty by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament Assembled and by the Authority of the same

That from and after the — day of — No Mill or Mills for Slitting of Iron or any Furnace or Furnaces for making Steel shall be Used Wrought or Employed in any of the Plantations of His Majesty His Heirs or Successors in America And that from and after the said — day of — No Forge or Forges Bloomery or Bloomerys Work or Works for making of Bar Iron (other than such as were made erected built employed and Workt at before the — day of — 1738 shall be erected built used wrought or employed in any of the said Plantations And also that from and after the said — day of — One thousand seven hundred and — No New or Additional Hearth or Hearths Wheel or Wheels shall be made erected or Set up in or to any fforge or Forges Bloomery or Bloomeries now standing and in Use in any of the said Plantations And it is hereby farther Enacted that if any person or persons shall from and after the — day of — One thousand Seven hundred and — erect build and set up or cause to be built erected or set up in any part of the said Plantations any Mill or Mills or either engine for Slitting Iron or any Furnace or Furnaces for making of Steel or shall use work or employ any such Mill Engine or Furnace already made or erected in and for Slitting Iron for making Steel respectively every person or persons so offending shall for every such Slitting Mill Slitting Engine or Steel Furnace so to be erected built set up workt or employed *forfeit and pay the sum of One hundred pounds Sterling* and shall also *forfeit and loose all the Steel and Iron to be made and Slitt in the said Furnaces and Slitting Mills respectively* And also shall *forfeit and pay* for every month where in any Iron shall be Slitt or any Steel shall be made in any of the said Slitting Mills and Furnaces respectively the Sum of *fifty pounds Sterling*.

And be it further Enacted that if any person or persons from and after the — day of — One Thousand Seven hundred and — Erect build and Set up or Cause to be erected built

and Sett up in any of the said Plantations any new fforge or fforges Bloomery or Bloomerys Work or Works for making of Bar Iron besides such as were built erected set up and worked at before the — day of — One thousand seven hundred and *Thirty eight* or make erect and build or Cause to be made erected and built any New or Additional Hearth or Hearths Wheel or Wheels in or to any fforge or Bloomery now erected built Standing and being in any part of the said plantations every person so offending shall for every such new fforge or Bloomery And for every new Additional Hearth or Wheel so to be made erected built and Sett up respectively as aforesaid *forfeit and pay the sum of five hundred pounds* and shall also *forfeit and loose* all the Bar Iron to be made in at or by means of such New and Additional fforges Bloomerys Hearths Wheels and Works respectively And shall also *forfeit and pay* for every *month* wherein any Bar Iron shall be made at, in, or by means of any fforge Bloomery Hearth or Wheel to be made erected and set up Contrary to the Tenor of this Act the Sum of *fifty pounds*

And it is hereby farther Enacted by the Authority aforesaid That all the *penalties and forfeitures* before shall and may be recovered by Action Bill Plaint or Information in any of his Majestys Courts in such of the Lands Islands Colonys Plantations Territories or places where the Offences against this Act shall be Committed or in any Court of Record in Great Britain at the pleasure and Option of the person or persons who shall Sue or prosecute for the same wherein No Essoign protection or more than one Imparlance shall be allowed and that upon all such Actions Suit and Informations the Offences may be laid or alledged to be in any Colony Province County Precinct or Division of any of the said Plantations where such Offences are Alledged to be Committed at the pleasure of the person or persons who shall Sue and prosecute the same And That one *Moiety or half part of the said penalties* and forfeitures shall go and belong to the Governor Deputy Governor or Commander in Chief residing in the Island Colony Plantation Territory or place where the Offence shall be Committed And the other *Moiety* to the person or persons who shall Sue and prosecute for the same.

And that each and every Governor Deputy Governor or Commander in Chief of any of the Lands Islands Colonies places or

Territories in America where any Slitting Mill or Steel furnace or any New or Additional fforge or forges Bloomery or Bloomerys Hearth or Hearths Wheel or Wheels shall be erected built made Sett up wrought or employed respectively, contrary to the Tenor and true Meaning of this Act is and are hereby Authorized Impowered directed and required upon Information to him and them respectively made and given upon the Oath of any *two* or more Credible Witnesses if any such Slitting Mill or Steel furnace or New or Additional fforge or forges Bloomery or Bloomeries Hearth or Hearths Wheel or Wheels being made erected built set up wrought or employed contrary to the tenor and true Meaning of this Act And which Oath such Governor Deputy Governor or Commander in Chief is and are hereby Authorized and required to Administer to Order and direct and Cause the same respectively to be pulled down demolished and destroyed within the space of three *months* next after such Information given as aforesaid And if any Governor Deputy Governor or Commander in Chief shall Neglect or Refuse so to do within the time hereinbefore Limited for that purpose Or in any Case any Governor Deputy Governor or Commander in Chief of any of the said plantations in America from and after the — day of — One Thousand Seven hundred and *thirty eight* be concerned in any of the Slitting Mills Steel Furnaces forges and Bloomeries or other Works intended to be Restrained prohibited or prevented from being built or erected or wrought by this Act or in any share and profits of in or out of the same every such Governor Deputy Governor or Commander in Chief so offending shall for any such Offence be removed from and *forfeit his Office place or Government and shall also forfeit and pay the Sum of One thousand pounds* Sterling to be recovered by the ways and means herein before directed and prescribed or any of them whereof One *Moiety* shall go to his Majesty his Heirs and Successors and the other *Moiety* to such person or persons as shall prosecute and Sue for the Same And shall from thenceforth be rendred incapable of holding or enjoying any place of Trust or profit under his Majesty his Heirs or Successors And it is hereby farther Enacted That if any person or persons shall at any time be sued or prosecuted for any thing by him or them done in pursuance and Execution of this Act he or they may

plead the General Issue and give this Act in Evidence And if a Verdict pass for the Defendant or Defendants or the plaintiff be Non Suit or forbear prosecution The Defendant shall have *Treble Costs* to be recovered as in other Cases where Costs are given by Law to Defendants And it is hereby farther Enacted and Declared That this Act shall be deemed and taken to be a publick Act and all Judges and Justices shall take Notice thereof as such without Specially pleading or Setting forth the same

vera Copia

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 4th mo : the 21st 1738

Governor Wanton

My last to thee was of the 16. Instant per Cap^t Bonner via Boston to which I refer. this comes now to bring thee a Copy of the Massach^{ts} Agents Petⁿ ¹ to the King in Council in relation to the Lords of Trades Report touching the Bounds between them and the Colony—this Petition is newly lodgd at the Council Office and is to be presented the next general Council day when it will of Course be referrd to the Committee who will as usual appoint a day for considering it and admit the Agents to be heard by their Council for and against it, which I shall push forward with what expedition we can: I should be glad of a few lines from thee who am with respects

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

I herewith send thee (with some News papers) a Copy of the Speaker of the House of Commons his

¹ Praying that no new commissioners be appointed, but that a decision be rendered in accordance with the recommendation of the Lords of Trade.

Speech to the King in the House of Lords at the breaking up the Sessions of Parliam^t w^{ch} is what we can scarce ever or very rarely obtain. it being something curious I send it thee thinking it might be acceptable.

To Governor WANTON

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 6 mo. the 19th 1738

Governor Wanton

The last I writt thee were of the 21st and 27th 4 mo. last since w^{ch} I have not had any of thy favours — as to the Affair of the Lords of Trades Report¹ (a Copy whereof I have sent thee) nothing can be further done in it till the Committee of Council begin to sitt again, w^{ch} its thought will hardly be till some time in Octo^r next, before that time I hope to hear from thee.

[T]here has of late a considerable Number of Men of War put into Commission, a hott press for Sea-Men and a great Stir in publick about the contest with Spain² w^{ch} made People imagine one while that a War was just going to breake out: but after all they now seem to be of opinion that Peace will be maintaind and that what we are doing is only to intimidate the Spaniards — what to think of the Consequence I know not. time must make manifest: It is certain the Nation is put to a very [great] Expence — and if there by the publick Tranquility can be estab-

¹ See note on p. 90.

² See note on p. 88.

lished, the Spaniards bro^t to reason, that is to make satisfaction to our Injur'd Merchants, and our Trade to the West Indies securd without coming to Blows it were abundantly best. for the rest I refer to the publick Prints herewith sent and remain with respects

Thy faithfull friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To Governor WANTON.

JOHN PEAGRUM TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Hon^d Sir

The Bearer M^r Joseph Wanton is Appointed Dep^{ty} Collector in the Room of M^r Lechmere I Desire You will Administer to him the Oaths Required by Law and give him Your Aid and Assistance in the Execution of his Duty as it may become Necessary I am wth great Respect

Yo^r Hon^{rs} Most Hum^{ble} Serv^t

JN. PEAGRUM

BOSTON 25 Augst 1738

To the Hon^{ble} JN^O WANTON Esq^r Gov^r &c.

GOVERNOR BELCHER TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Hon^{ble} Sir

I duly rec^d your Favour of 28th Ult^o,¹ and communicated it to His Majesty's Council of this Province, with the Copy of the Report of the Lords of

¹ In the August session of the Rhode Island General Assembly provision was made for notifying Governor Belcher of the report of the Lords of Trade to the Lords of the Committee of Council. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 547.

Trade respecting the Disputed Boundary between this Province and your Colony, a Copy of which the Agent of this Province had transmitted some time ago; and His Majesty's Council here are of opinion, as this is only a Report of the Lords of Trade not acted upon by the Right Hono^{ble} the Lords of His Majesty's most Honourable Privy-Council, nor any Order of the King made out in the matter, that it can be no Direction to the several Governments; however they are very much inclin'd, and so am I, to do every thing, that may have a Tendency to Peace and good Neighbourhood between the two Governments. And when the Assembly meets here, your Letter shall be laid before them, that the whole Legislature may make out an Order for quieting the Borderers on the Line, 'till there may be a final Settlement, which I desire you to press your Agent to expedite, and the Agent of this Province will be instructed in Conformity.

I am Sir, Your Honour's

Most Obedient Humble Servant

J. BELCHER

BOSTON Sept. 11th 1738.

Gov^r WANTON.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 9^{bre} 3^d 1738

Governor Wanton

My last to thee was of the 19th 6 mo. last via Boston per Cap^t Morris wherein I omitted thro' forgetfulness acknowledging the receipt of thine dated the

16. May last per John Bannister which I duely had by him — and it was a satisfaction to me to see that my good Friends of the Colony of Rhode Island were not uneasy at my being engaged for the Massachusetts in the Affair of their Boundaries with New Hampsh^r.¹

And now as to the Matter that relates to the dispute wth the Massachusetts about the Gore of Land: agreeable to what I heretofore Writt thee, their Agent Wilks did Petition against the Lords of Trades Report² some time since, and at the very first Sitting of the Lords Committee of Council this Season our Solicitor made a motion that it might be brought on to a Hearing as soon as their LordShips wo^d admit of it, which accordingly was agreed to, and the 1st Instant appointed for that purpose. In w^{ch} Cause we had for our Counsel the famous Counselor Murray and Coun^r Clark wherein to do them Justice they acted their parts as well (I think) as it was possible for Men to do, urging pretty much the Same Arguments as they did before the Board of Trade;

¹ See note to letter of Xber 31, 1736. The settlement of the New Hampshire-Massachusetts boundary question was long delayed by disputes between the parties interested as to the appointment and method of procedure of a Boundary Commission, issued April 9, 1737. The New Hampshire parties felt deeply aggrieved by the political intrigues of Governor Belcher, in the Massachusetts interest, and presented to the King a petition (September 6, 1737) embodying the facts at issue. A counter-petition was presented "about the 9th of October, 1738," by Francis Wilks and Richard Partridge, of London, Merchants, (as Agents for the said Governour and the Council and assembly of the Massachusetts Bay)." A circumstantial account of the matter down to 1740 *c.* is given in a petition to the Crown presented by John Thomlinson, Agent for New Hampshire, praying for the removal of Governor Belcher. *New Hampshire Province Papers*, V. 921. The matter was not finally adjusted until March, 1740, by a decree of the Privy Council, which gave New Hampshire a territory even more extensive than that she had claimed. PALFREY, *History of New England*, IV. 558

² See note on p. 96.

And upon the whole the Lords Committee agreed to confirm that Boards Report and that a Commission sh^d Issue to appoint Commissioners accordingly, which Resolution of theirs is to be reported to the King in Council and from thence Directions will be given to the Lords of Trade to nominate proper persons and to prepare the Commission : and when that is about, we shall duely attend for that purpose, takeing due care that Suitable Persons be appointed ; and this I hope will meet with the approbation of the Colony for I can assure them nothing was wanting nor any pains Spared on our parts to Serve their Interest therein, and it was as much as our Solicitor and mySelf were able to bring about towards forwarding the Completion of this Dispute.

for public News I refer to the Publick Prints herewith Sent thee, hoping by the next Ship from Boston I shall have the pleasure of hearing from thee with a Supply according to my former Request. in the mean time I remain with due Respects to thySelf and the Gentlemen of the Council and house of Representatives

Their faithfull ffriend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

The Lords Committee present at this Hearing
were Lord President
Lord Abercorn
Lord Monson
Lord Ch: Justice Willes
and the Speaker of the House of Commons
To Governor WANTON

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 12th mo. the 10. 173⁸₉*Governor Wanton*

This brings thee an Order of Council for Commissioners to be appointed to mark out the Dividing Line &c. between Rhode Island and the Massachusetts respecting the Gore of Land in dispute, as also Copys of the Lords Committee of Councils Report agreeable to the Board of Trades Report for appointing Commissioners.

and of an Order of the Lords Committees to the Board of Trade to return the Names of proper persons for Comm^{rs} to settle the Boundaries.

and of the Report¹ of the Board of Trade conformable thereto.

and of an Order of the King in Council for Petitioners to give Security to pay Costs as may be awarded for the future.

all which are Expensive but there's no avoiding it, and I do assure thee I have left nothing undone hitherto on my part for the Service of the Colony that I judgd would make for their advantage, and I doubt not but my Endeavours will meet with their Approbation, it being impossible as I apprehend to have done more.

The next Thing to be done is to get the Commission Issued which as my Solicitor informs me wo^d come to about £120 — ster^s under the great Seal; On consideration of which I proposd we sh^d have it Issued only by an Order from the King in Council

¹ See the following document.

by consent on both sides to save the Exorbitant Expençe, which Lord President on our Application does not oppose, provided Agent Wilks in Person signifys his full consent thereto, which I do not doubt off, and therefore hope it will go in that manner.

By Lord Presidents direction the Comm^{rs} Names have been laid before the King in Council the 17. ult and the Order thereon has been drawn up and deliverd out but last night, In my next thou mayst expect a Copy of it.

The Parliament are now sitting having begun their Sessions the 1st Instant and herewith I send thee the Kings Speech and Commons Address.

The apprehensions there was of a War seem all to be blown over and as for other News I refer to the Prints here inclosed, and remain with due Respects to thySelf and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Their ffaithful ffriend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

If the Parliament sh^d take in hand again this Sessions the matter of the Iron Bill as heretofore (as I believe they will) and I sh^d Joyn in opposing it, it will doubtless be attended with Considerable Expençe.

To Gov^r WANTON

THE LORDS OF TRADE TO THE LORDS OF THE PRIVY
COUNCIL.¹

*To the Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee
of His Majestys most Honoble Privy Council.*

My Lords

Pursuant to your Lordships Order of 1st Instant We have considered of Proper Persons to be appointed Commissioners for marking out and Settling the Dividing Line between the Province of the Massachusetts Bay and Rhode Island Eastward and for that Service We take leave to name Your Lordships the five Eldest Councillors of the three Neighbouring Provinces namely

Cadwallader Colden, Abraham Vanhorn Philip Livingston Archibald Kennedy and James De Lancey Esq^{rs} for the Province of New York —

John Hamilton John Wells John Reading Cornelius Vanhorn and William Provost Esq^{rs} for the Province of New Jersey —

William Skene William Shirriff Henry Cope Erasmus James Philipps and Otho Hamilton Esq^{rs} for the Province of Nova Scotia which last Gentleman We have Substituted in the place of Major Paul Mascarene who was formerly left out by Your Lordships Order on a like Occasion because he had an Estate in the Province of the Massachusetts Bay

We take leave further to acquaint Your Lordships that we have been attended by the Agents of the said Provinces of the Massachusetts Bay and Rhode

¹ Enclosed in the preceding letter.

Island who have No Objection to the said Nomination.

We are My Lords
Your Lordships Most Obedient and
Most humble Servants

MONSON
M BLADEN
R PLUMER

WHITEHALL Decem^r 21st 1738

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 12 mo. the 12. 1738

Governor Wanton

This is just to acquaint thee I have writ thee of the 10th Inst by Cap^t Newell to which I refer thee.

We are now about geting the Commission or Order of the King in Council for constituting the Comm^{rs} for settling the Boundary line as fast as we can and when it is ready Shall send it thee Who am with respects

Thy assured Friend

R^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq Governor of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 1st mo. the 15. 1738⁹

Governor Wanton

I writ thee last of the 5th Inst per Cap^t Harrison who sailed through the Downs the 10th Inst; since which our Petition for an Order of Council to be issued instead of a Commissⁿ to save charges (as I

heretofore hinted to thee was intended to be done,) has been laid before the Lords Committee, but their Lordships did Not think it proper it sh^d pass — after that manner, — so that now there is no other way for us but by procuring a Commissⁿ under the great Seale w^{ch} my Solicitor tells me will amount to about £135 sterl^g besides his trouble therein, which as we are the Complainants and consequently sue out the Commission we must advance, but then the Lords of the Council afterwards would certainly order the Massach^{ts} to pay one half of it; and yesterday I went to Agent Wilks to know of him if he wo^d advance half the money for sueing out the Commissⁿ but could get no promise from him that he would, and therefore I judgd it most prudent first of all to give thee notice thereof in order for my further Instructions, before I laid out so considerable a Sum of money. The like Sum of £135 I find has been laid out of Pocket by our Sol^r for New Hamps^r and he has not been able to get the half of it advanced for the other Province in to this day, tho' I am apt to think it will be paid in time.

I send thee herewith a Copy of a Petⁿ¹ prepared in order to sue out a Commissⁿ with Articles annexed suitable thereto which now must lye by a while in expectation of the Colonys answer

Inclosed I also send thee my acc^t wth the Colony the Ball^{ce} whereof appears to be £94: 7: 1 St^r in my favour, and I doubt not of Sufficient Supplys from them as usual to enable me to carry on their affairs So wth due Respects to thySelf and the Gentlemen

¹ Not in the archives.

of the Council and Representatives I remain Thy
ffaithfull ffriend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

yesterday the Princess of Wales was deliv^d of
another Son for a further acc^t I refer to the inclosed
Print

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 2^d mo. the 10th 1739

Governor Wanton

I have had none of thy favours for a pretty while
and having lately writ thee the needfull about the
Colonys Affair refer thee thereto,

this now comes to acquaint thee that there is like
to be a Bill brought into Parliam^t relating to Iron a
Copy whereof I have obtained and Send it thee here
inclosed, its thought it will pass this Sessions.

altho' some part of it is for encourageing the
making of Iron in the Plantations, yet other parts
of it will be prejudicial and therefore I was [at] once
for opposing it, but could not find any were for joyn-
ing with me, in as much as it is not by abundance
so bad as the Bill that was prepar'd last year on that
head, and so thought we had better let this pass as it
is without opposition, than to run the hazard of hav-
ing an other imposed on us a great deal worse.

I thought it my duty to give thee this early notice
of it who am with due respects

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq Governor of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 2^d mo. 27. 1739*Governor Wanton*

I writ thee of the 15. ult per Cap^t Fones — to which I refer. this now serves chiefly to bring thee my Solicitor Paris's Bill for the Colony for what he has done hither to amounting to £128: 15: 8 in part whereof I have pd him £9-10-0. at several times w^{ch} thou wilt find I have chargd in the Colonies acc^t, besides Counsel fees, so that there is yet due to him £37: 15: 8. not doubting of being Supplyd with further remittances I remain

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

I sent thee per Fones my acc^t the Ballance whereof was then £94: 7: 1 in my favour

To JOHN WANTON. Esq^t Governor of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations.

GEORGE II. TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE
ISLAND.

Trusty and Welbeloved, We greet you well.

Whereas several unjust Seizures¹ have been made, and Depredations carried on in the West Indies, by Spanish Guarda Costas, and Ships acting under the Commission of the King of Spain, or his Governors, contrary to the Treaties subsisting between Us and the Crown of Spain, and to the Law of Nations, to

¹ See note on p. 88.

the great Prejudice of the lawfull Trade and Commerce of our Subjects; and many Cruelties, and Barbarities have been exercised on the Persons of such of Our Subjects, whose Vessels have been so seized by the said Spanish Guarda Costas; And whereas frequent Complaint has been made to the Court of Spain of these unjust Practises, and no Satisfaction, or Redress been procured; And whereas a Convention,¹ for making Reparation to Our Subjects for the Losses sustained by Them, on account of the unjust Seizures and Captures abovementioned, was concluded between Us and the King of Spain, on the 14th Day of January last N. S., by which Convention it was stipulated, That a certain Sum of Money should be paid, at London, within a Term specified in the said Convention, as a Ballance due, on the Part of Spain, to the Crown and Subjects of Great Britain; which Term did expire on the Twenty Fifth Day of May last, and the Payment of the said Sum, agreed by the said Convention, has not been made, according to the Stipulation for that Purpose; by which means the Convention abovementioned has been manifestly violated, and broke by the King of Spain, and Our Subjects remain without any Satisfaction, or Reparation for the many, great, and grievous Losses sustained by Them; We have thought fit, for the Vindicating the Honour of Our Crown, and for Procuring Reparation, and Satisfaction for Our injured Subjects, to order Reprisals to be made upon the Crown and Subjects of Spain. And We do therefore, by vertue of these Presents, authorise and

¹ For the details of this Convention, see the next document in the series.

empower you to issue forth, and grant Commissions of Marque, and Reprisal to Any of Our loving Subjects, or others, who shall apply to You for the same, and whom you shall deem fitly qualified in that behalf, for Arming and Fitting out private Ships of War, for the Apprehending, Seizing, and Taking the Ships, Vessels, and Goods belonging to the King of Spain, his Vassals, and Subjects, or Any inhabiting within His Countries, Territories, and Dominions in the West Indies: Provided always, That before any such Commission, or Commissions, be issued forth, Security be given upon every such Commission, as hath been used in such Cases. And you shall insert in every Commission, to be so granted by You, all such Clauses, and give such Directions and Instructions to the Person, or Persons, to whom you shall grant such Commission, as have been usual, in Cases of the like Nature:¹ And for so doing This shall be your Warrant. And so We bid you Farewell. Given at Our Court at Kensington the Fifteenth Day of June 1739. in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.²

To Our Trusty and Welbeloved the Governor and Company of Our Colony of Rhode Island and Providence in America:

¹ In the General Assembly of August, 1739, it was "Voted and resolved, that His Honor, the Governor, grant all such commissions, in behalf of this colony, to private men of war against Spain, and the subjects thereof, &c. as he shall think needful and necessary, pursuant to His Majesty's Warrant." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 561.

² Secretary of State for the Southern Department.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL June 15th 1739.

Gentlemen,

As It was Stipulated by the Convention, concluded between His Majesty and the King of Spain, on the 14th of January last, N. S. That the Sum of ninety five thousand Pounds Sterling should be paid at London, within the Term of four Months, to be reckoned from the Day of the Exchange of the Ratifications of the said Convention, as a Ballance due, on the Part of Spain, to the Crown and Subjects of Great Britain ; and as the said Term of four Months, from the Exchange of the Ratifications of the Convention, did expire on the 25th Day of May last, and the Payment of the said Sum of Ninety five thousand Pounds sterling, agreed by the said Convention, has not been made, according to the Stipulation for that purpose, by which means the Convention above-mentioned has been manifestly violated and broke, and His Majesty's Subjects remain without any Satisfaction or Reparation for the many, great and grievous Losses sustained by Them, His Majesty has thought Himself obliged to take such Measures, on His Part, as are necessary for the Support of the Honour and Dignity of His Crown, the Security of the just Rights of His Subjects, and the Good and Safety of His Dominions, and has therefore ordered the Ships and Effects of the King of Spain, and His Subjects, to be seized and taken wherever They shall be met with ; with which I am commanded to

acquaint You, that You may cause the same to be made known in all Places under Your Government, to the End that His Majesty's Subjects in those Parts may be upon their Guard, to prevent any Mischief, they might otherwise suffer from the Spaniards, in Revenge for the Measures, which His Majesty is obliged to take, to do Himself and His Subjects Justice; and that They may, in their several Stations, annoy the Subjects of Spain in the best Manner They are able. And I send You herewith, by the King's Order, His Majesty's Warrant,¹ under His Royal Sign Manual, authorizing and empowering You to grant Commissions of Marque and Reprisal, for arming and fitting out private Ships of War, against the Ships, Goods, and Subjects of the King of Spain. And It is His Majesty's Pleasure, That you should be very rigorous and severe, in preventing any Ammunition, or Stores of any kind, from being carried to the Spaniards; and You are to use all proper Methods, that may be most effectual for this Purpose.

I am Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servant

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Governor and Company of the Colony of Rhode
Island.

¹ See the preceding document.

THE LORDS OF TRADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF
RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL July the 5th 1739.

Gentlemen,

We send you herewith Copies of two Addresses from the House of Lords,¹ and likewise of two Addresses from the House of Commons² to His Majesty, of the 13th of the last Month, and desire that you will for[th]with prepare and transmit to Us as soon as possible, the several Accouts therein required that the same may be laid before the respective Houses the next meeting of Parliament. So We bid you heartily farewell, and are

Your very loving Friends and humble Servants,

MONSON

T PELHAM

R PLUMER

JA : BRUDENELL.

* Hon^{ble} the Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island.

ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS TO THE CROWN.³

Die Mercurii, 13^o Junii 1739.

Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled, That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, That His Majesty will be graciously pleased to give Directions to the proper Officers, That an Account be prepared, and laid

¹ See the next two documents.

² Not in the archives.

³ Enclosed in letter from the Lords of Trade, of July 5, 1739.

before this House at their next Sessions, what was the Amount of the Paper Bills, or Bills of Credit, which by virtue of any Act or Acts of Assembly Subsisted or passed in Payment in any of the British Colonies or Plantations in the Year 1700. And also an Account of the Amount of what Paper Bills, or Bills of Credit of any species, or Kinds, have by Virtue of any Act or Acts been created or issued in any of the said Colonies or Plantations since the Year 1700, with the Amount of the Value in Money of Great Britain, of such Bills at the respective Times of their creating and issuing; and what Provision was made thereby for the sinking or discharging of any such Paper Bills, or Bills of Credit; Together with an Account of the Amount of the Bills, that have been sunk or discharged in pursuance thereof, and also of the Bills subsisting or passing in Payment at this Time in any of the said Colonies and Plantations with the Amount of the Value in Money of Great Britain, of such Bills; distinguishing each species, or Kind of Paper Bills or Bills of Credit and each Colony or Plantation.

sign'd

WM COWPER, Cler.
Parliamentor.

ADDRESS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS TO THE CROWN.¹

Die Mercurii, 13^o Junii 1739.

Ordered by the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament Assembled That an humble Address be

¹ Enclosed in letter from the Lords of Trade, of July 5, 1739.

presented to His Majesty, That His Majesty will be graciously pleased to give Directions to the proper Officers, That an Account be prepared and laid before this House at their next Sessions, at what Rates all Gold and Silver Coins were accounted, received, taken or paid, and Gold and Silver were Purchased at, or Sold for per Ounce, in any of the British Colonies and Plantations in America, in the Years 1700, 1710, 1720, 1730, and at what Rates Gold and Silver Coins are accounted, received, taken or paid, and Gold and silver are Purchased at, or sold for per Ounce at this Time in such Colonies and Plantations, distinguishing each Colony and Plantation.

sign'd

W^M COWPER, Cler.
Parliamentor.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 5th mo. 10. 1739

Gov^r. Wanton

I have had none of thy favours for a considerable time but I hope I shall by the next Ship that arrives from New England.

This now I write at a venture to meet a Ship at Dover bound to New York from Holland and comes to acquaint thee that the present posture of Publick Affairs seems to be upon a Crisis tending to War which I take to be what is generally apprehended will ensue, and that its thought will break out in a little time between this Kingdom and Spain with whom France will undoubtedly Joyn (unless any

thing unforeseen sh^d intervene). I judg'd it therefore need full to give thee some hints of it, great preparations has been for some time making here, a considerable Number of Men of War are fitting out, a Strict Press for Seamen, and an Embargo on Ships from going out w^{ch} has lasted already abo^t 3 weeks and when it will be off we know not.

If a War sh^d be the Consequence its talkt that it will begin first by our making Reprisals some where on the Spaniards in the West Indies or by Admiral Haddock in the Mediterean, and this Resolution seems to be taken by our Ministry in as much as the Spaniards delay or refuse to comply with the Terms of the Convention on their parts, no doubt they have been encourag'd therein and Matters fomented undoubtedly by the French.

They say the Tartar Man is lately gone to America which probably carry some Instructions about these Affairs to the British Governors on the Continent. for the rest I refer to the inclosed prints and remain with due respects.

Thy assured Friend

R. PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq.

Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

JOSIAH WILLARD TO MESSRS. PETER BOURS, GODFREY MALLBONE, AND JAMES MARTIN.¹

Gentlemen,

I have herewith inclosed a Copy of the Vote of our General Assembly for appointing Commis^{rs} to treat and transact with Commiss^{rs} on the part of your Government on the Affair of the Boundaries. You will please to inform me or Coll. Dudley (the Senior Commis^r for this Service) of the Result of your Assembly hereon. I am Gentlemen

Your most obedient Humble Servant

J. WILLARD

BOSTON July 16. 1739.

Mess^{rs} PETER BOURS, GODFREY MALLBONE, and JA. MARTIN.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 6 mo. the 10. 1739

Worthy friend

The foregoing is Copy of my last to thee since which I have not recd any letter from thee so have the less to say now: our Affair relating to the Gore of Land in dispute lyes quite still till We have further Instructions, w^{ch} I expect to receive from thee per [the] first Ship from N E and then I shall not faile to pursue them in the best manner I am capable off.

¹ A committee appointed in May, 1739, "to write to the General Court of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay" concerning "the affair of the gore of land in controversy." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 557.

I herewith send thee Copy of a Bill for the further enforcing the Sugar Act that was bro^t into the last Sessions of Parliament but it was dropt and did not pass, w^{ch} as I take it wo^d have been of pernicious Consequence to the Plantations: whether it will be revivd or not next Parliam^t we know not, however I judgd it proper to acquaint the Colony with it to let them see what Some People here aim at; there was a Law relating to the Sugar Trade did pass which I also here send thee.

Thou wilt see by the Votes herewith sent that the Parliament are for having an acc^t of the state of Bills of Credit in the Plantations ready to be laid before them next Sessions w^{ch} its probable they call for in order to do something by way of Regulation and very likely thou wilt receive a letter from the Lords of Trade (among others) thereabout.¹

As to War it is not actually broke out yet and when any proclamation for that End will be Issued is uncertain after all, tho' Great Preparations are still continueing to be made, time must discover the Event. for the rest I referr to the prints I here send thee and remain with due respects to thy self and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Their ffaithfull friend

RICH^d. PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON, Esq

Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

¹ See letter on p. 120.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 7th the 5. 1739

Governor Wanton

As the Publick affairs pretty much draws the Attention of People respecting a War at this juncture, so I judgd it necessary now and then to advise thee of occurrences of that kind; and to send thee the inclosed Prints for thy information. The Spanish Ambassador is now gone away home for Madrid having left behind him his Masters Manifesto (w^{ch} is published here) to justifie their Conduct touching the Breach of the late Convention, the fault whereof they wo^d throw intirely upon the English, but People here seem to think his Arguments are weak, frivolous and easily refuted, And whether or no our Ministry will think it worth their while to answer it is uncertain, and now a War that is a Sea War seems unavoidable, preparations for which have been making here for a considerable time so that the English have got the whip hand of both the other Powers they are to be engag'd against, for the rest I refer to the Prints here with sent and remain

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

Our Ministry by their putting at sev^l times so large a Number of Men of War in Commissⁿ seem to be vigorously intent in pushing on for obtaining satisfaction some how or other and in the mean time for protecting our Trade at Sea also.

the 11th: 1739

Since the foregoing I have recd thine dated 13 July, together with a Packet of Papers for the Agent

of Connec^t which I shall deliver him accordingly and observe thy further directions thereabout when he is recov^d of his illness which he has been lately seiz'd with. I note some endeavours are like to be used for accommodating the affair wth the Massach^{ts} if that could be done there it w^d to be sure save a great deal of Expence, but if it sh^d not take Effect I shall readily pursue Such further Instructions in behalf of the Colony as I shall receive from thee who am with kind respects

Thy faithfull friend

R^d PARTRIDGE

I send thee the King of Spains Manifesto and some more prints in a pack^t to B. Bagnal to forw^d to thee I take kindly the favour the Colony has done me in honouring my late draught of One hund^d Pounds

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r Governor of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 8^{ber} the 5. 1739

Gov^r. Wanton

My last to thee was of the 11th ult acknowledging the rec^t of thine dated the 13 July last with the Papers relating to Connecticut for their Agent Wilks, but the Indisposition with which he has been seiz'd of late prevents my attending him, when he recovers I shall not be wanting to pursue thy directions thereabout.

I note some Overtures have been made with the Massachusetts about accommodating the disputed Boundaries, relating to the Gore of Land, if that co^d be brought to bear it would Save the Colony a pretty deal of Expence here, but if not when I receive thy Orders I shall proceed in the best manner I can for the Colonys Interest which they may be assured off as I have hetherto done.

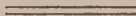
As to publick News Preparations for War are vigorously carried on still, Our Minister Keen lately returnd home from Spain, France not yet declared against us neither is it believd they will in hast, for it cannot be suppos'd they are in any degree so far prepar'd as we are for a Rupture, But will doubtless again try their Skill to bring about an Accommodation by way of Mediation which hetherto our Court don't seem much to regard, judging that either they may have some Sinister View in it or that they are naturaly so attach't to Spain that we can expect only an amuzement and no good from their Interposition; Yet if there be any probability of an accommodation its possible it may be rather expected now that there is Peace lately concluded between the Turks and Russians as well as between the former and the Germans, for that as the Russians are look'd upon as our good Allys, its not unlikely (but if it sh^d be required by the English) they wo^d afford us a considerable Assistance agst the French, and that consideration wo^d rationally keep them still back from breaking with us—for the rest I refer to the Inclosed Prints and remain wth due Respects to thy Self and

the Gentlemⁿ of the Council and House of Representatives Thy ffaithfull Friend

R.^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r

Governor of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



CIRCULAR LETTER TO THE GOVERNORS OF MARYLAND, CONNECTICUT, AND RHODE ISLAND.

[1739]

Sirs

We send You herewith inclosed the Copy of an Address of the House of Commons to His Majesty in the last Session of Parliament by which You will perceive how much they apprehend the Commerce of Great Britain to have been Affected by the large and frequent Emissions of Paper Currency in His Majestys Colonys in America in which Rhode Island has had too large a Share¹ (the words Scored under to be inserted only in the Letter to the Gov^r of Rhode Island) and His Majesty in pursuance of the said Address having sent Circular Instructions to the several Colonys more immediately under His Government not to pass any more Bills for the issuing of Paper Money without a Clause inserted therein, as proposed by the said Address, to Suspend the Execution till His Majestys Pleasure shall be Signified thereupon. We think it proper to acquaint You therewith and at

¹ See Partridge's letter of 6 mo. 10, 1739. This document is unsigned and marked *Copy*.

the same time to Admonish and Advise you to pay all due regard to His Majestys Intentions and to the sense of the House of Commons upon this Occasion. So we bid you heartily farewell and are

Your very Loving Friends
and humble Servants

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 8^{ber} the 26th: 1739

Gov^r. Wanton

I lately writ thee per Cap^t Seabrook direct to Rhode Isl^d this I write now at a Venture to the Downs and Just comes to bring thee one of our News Papers and Proclamation of War agst Spain which was publishd here the 23^d Inst; as to France People here differ in their opinion whether we Shall have a War with them or not, time alone must discover it: I am with respects Thy assured Fr^d

R^d PARTRIDGE

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL 29th Oct^r 1739

Sir,

I am to acquaint you, that on Friday the 19th Instant a Great Council was held at Kensington, where His Majesty approved and signed a Declaration of War against Spain, and ordered, that the same should be published on Tuesday the 23^d Instant by the Heralds at Arms, in the usual Places, and with

the accustomed Formalitys on the like Occasions, which was done accordingly; And I am commanded to send you a printed Copy of the said Declaration, and to signify to you His Majesty's Pleasure, that you cause it to be proclaimed in the Places under your Government, that His Subjects having this Notice may take care to prevent any Mischief, which otherwise they might suffer from the Enemy, and do their Duty in their several Stations to annoy the Subjects of Spain; And His Majesty would have you be very rigorous and severe in preventing any Ammunition or Stores of any kind from being carried to them; And you are to use all proper Methods that may be most effectual for this Purpose.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant

HOLLES NEWCASTLE.

GOVERNOR WANTON TO GOVERNOR BELCHER.

NEWPORT 12th November 1739

S^r

This waits upon You by Mess^{rs} Goulding and Brenton Two of our Colony Trustees who are now going to Salem Court to be Evidences against the Persons indicted to that Court for Counterfeiting the Bills in imitation of the true £5 Bills of this Colony, and before their Return design likewise for Portsmouth in New Hampshire upon the same Account if not too great a Distance between the Two Courts And if upon any future Occasion there should be a necessity of one or more of the signers of our true Bills

to attend upon a Trial We shall always be ready to comply therewith. I am desired by our General Assembly to acquaint Your Excel^{cy} That a Vote is pass'd¹ directing our Agent in Conjunction with the others strenuously to oppose at the next Session of Parliament the new additional Act relating to the Sugar Colonies in the W. Indies, which if pass'd will prove extreamly prejudicial and hurtful to the Trade of all the Northern Colonies, and therefore desire That Your Excel^{cy} will please to move it to Your Gen^l Court That proper Instructions might be given for that purpose Being with due Respects

Your Excel^{cy}'s most assured &c

To his Excel^{cy} JON^A BELCHER Esq &c

GOVERNOR WANTON TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT 12th 9 Mo. 1739

Respected Friend Rich^d Partridge

Sometime since I signed a Letter with others as a Committee, with a Remittance to Thee in Gold and Silver to the Value of £150 Str for the taking out the King's Commission to determine our Eastern Boundaries by Commissioners here and I do now also inform thee that I have rec^d thy several Letters and Packets particularly that relating to the Bill prepared for an additional Act to be pass'd relating to the Sugar Colonies: Which is conceived will be very prejudicial to our Trade here and other Northern

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 562.

Colonies and therefore a Vote was passed by the General Assembly at their last Sessions desiring me to direct Thee strenuously to oppose the Same and to use thy utmost Endeavours to prevent it being passed into a Law.¹

I received lately a Packet forwarded by thee from the Board of Trade, wherein was inclosed The Votes of the House of Lords and House of Commons to address his Majesty relating our Paper Currency, And accordingly received in the Same Packet an order from the Board of Trade² to remit home the State of our several Emissions and what has been called in and sunk thereof and likewise the Rate of Gold and Silver per oz at several Periods. The General Assembly think it very Strange that such Votes should be pass'd and an order sent which so greatly concerns the Colony and not one Word from Thee What was the Occasion of or what induced Them to make such an Enquiry³ I am &c.

TO RICH^d PARTRIDGE

GOVERNOR WANTON TO JOSEPH TALCOTT.⁴

NEWPORT 12th Nov^r 1739

S^r

I lately rec^d a Letter from our Agent wherein he informs me that He had received the Packet We sent him with the Copy of the Case &c relating [to]

¹ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 562.

² See letters on pp. 111, 112.

³ See Partridge's answer of 11 mo. (January) 2, 1739.

⁴ Talcott was governor of Connecticut from 1724 to 1741.

Masons Affair.¹ And I am likewise to acquaint Your Honour That I am desired by Our General Assembly to let you know That at their last Sessions They pass'd a Vote directing our Agent (in Conjunction with others) strenuously to oppose at the next Sessions of Parliament the new additional Act relating to the Sugar Colonies in the West Indies which if pass'd will prove extreamly Prejudicial and Hurtfull to the Trade of all the Northern Colonies, And therefore desire That You will please to move it to Your General Assembly that proper Instructions may be given for that purpose. I have signified the Same to his Excel^{cy} Governour Belcher and am with Respects Hon^{ble} S^r &c

To JOSEPH TALCOTT Esq &c

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 11th mo. the 2^d 17³⁸

Gov^r. Wanton

This I write at a venture to the Downs to meet a Ship there for Boston, and is to acknowledge the receipt of thine of 12th 9 mo. last ;² The Colony may be assured of my zeal and ffaithfulness in pursueing their orders wth respect [of] geting out the Commission for determining their Eastern Boundaries with

¹ The reference is probably to a document concerning the choice of a Sachem by the Mohegan Indians. This paper, which had been in the custody of one Samuel Mason, and was by him transferred to the files of the Court of Enquiry, had mysteriously disappeared.

² See p. 123.

all the Expedition I can, and advise thee the needfull as we proceed. As to the Bill prepar'd last Sessions of Parliam^t *for further enforcing the Sug^r. Act* I dont find it has yet been touch'd on this Sessions, but if it sh^d be reviv'd I shall use my endeavours for preventing its being passd. whether the other Northern Colonys will joyn with me in the oppisition I know not, but I shall try to bring some of them in to bear part of the Charge.

I note thou hast recd from the Lords of Trade the Votes of Parliament relating to Paper Currency and also an ord^r from the Bo^d of Trade to remit to them the State of your Several Emissions &c^a

And if thou lookst over my letter of the 10. 6 mo.¹ last thou wilt see there I writ the foll^s Paragraff (w^{ch} I think went much about the time of the afores^d letter of the Bo^d of Trade.)

“Thou wilt see by the Votes herewith sent that
“the Parliam^t are for having an acc^t of the State of
“Bills of Cred^t in the Plantations ready to be laid
“before them next Sessions, which its probable they
“call for in order to do something by way of Regu-
“lation and very likely thou wilt receive a letter
“from the Lords of Trade (among others) there-
“about.

the s^d Votes were passd at the Tail or towards the conclusion of the last Sessions of Parliam^t, and it was not very long after that I advisd thee of it and sent the Votes. We can give no reason how or for what reason they were stirrd up to do it unless it proceeded originaly from the L^{ds} of Trade who are

¹ See letter of August 10, 1739.

also Members of Parliam^t the Matter was general, and their orders Issued in consequence of those Votes doubtless were gen^l to all the Plant^a Governm^{ts} where there are Bills of Credit, and letters writ I beleive accordingly to the Gov^r; but hitherto I don't observe any thing has been done in it this Sessions of Parliam^t If they sh^d take it in hand I shall be upon the Watch and take Such Measures as are Suitable and give thee due notice thereof

I am with due regards Thy assured Friend
RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r

Governor of the Colony of Rhoad Island and
Providence Plantations

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND
COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL. Janry 5th 17th 48.

Gentlemen,

His Majesty having thought fit to declare War against Spain, and being determined, by all possible Means, to distress and annoy the Spaniards, in the most effectual Manner, and particularly by making an Attempt upon some of their most considerable Settlements in the West Indies, The King has been pleased for that Purpose, to order a large Body of Troops, under the Command of My Lord Cathcart,¹ a Major General of His Majesty's Forces, to go from hence, with a sufficient Convoy of Men of

¹ Lord Cathcart died in 1740, and was succeeded by Brigadier-General Wentworth.

War, to a proper Place in the West Indies, to be appointed for that Purpose, there to be joined by the Squadron under the Command of Vice Admiral Vernon,¹ now in the West Indies; and by such a Number of Troops, as may be raised in His Majesty's Colonies, and Islands in America.

As It has been represented to the King, That a very considerable Number of Men may be easily had, upon proper Encouragement, in the British Plantations, and particularly in His Majesty's Colonies on the Continent of America, to serve in Conjunction with the regular Troops to be sent from hence, I am to signify to You His Majesty's Pleasure, That You should forthwith make the proper Dispositions, for Raising as many Men, as You shall be able to procure within your Government: And, as the King intends, That the Troops, to be raised in America, should be commanded by Col^l Spotswood; The whole to be however, after They shall have joined the regular Troops, under the Command of My Lord Cathcart, General and Commander in Chief of All His Majesty's Troops, sent to, or raised in, America, (with which I have, by this Occasion, acquainted Colonel Spotswood) It is His Majesty's Pleasure, That You should confer, or correspond, with Colonel Spotswood, if You have an Opportunity, upon every Thing, that may relate to the Performance of this Service.

¹ Edward Vernon, promoted vice-admiral, July 9, 1739, and sent to capture the Spanish colonies in the West Indies. The expedition resulted, on November 22, 1739, in the accomplishment, *verbatim*, of Vernon's boast, that he could capture Porto Bello with six ships.

Colonel Blakeney,¹ who is appointed Adjutant General in this Expedition, will set out from hence, as soon as possible, with His Majesty's Letters, and Authorities to You, and the other Governors of His Majesty's Colonies on the Continent of America, for making the said Levies; and with the King's more particular Instructions, and Directions, relating to this Matter. In the mean Time, The King has thought proper, That I should give You this previous Notice, that You may be making the necessary Dispositions, in order to facilitate, as soon as possible, the Raising the Troops. Colonel Blakeney will carry with Him a considerable Number of Arms, Some Samples of Cloathing for the Soldiers, and what Money, or Credit shall be judged requisite for the Performance of this Service.

It is His Majesty's Intention, to give all proper Encouragement to the new Levies, by Ordering Them to be Supplied with Arms, and a proper Cloathing, and to be paid by His Majesty; with an Assurance of their coming in for their Share of any Booty, that may be taken from the Enemy, and of their being sent back to their respective Habitations, when the Service shall be over, unless any of Them shall desire to settle Themselves elsewhere.

His Majesty will order, to be sent by Colonel Blakeney, a Number of blank Commissions to be given by the Governors, to the Officers, that are to command the Troops under Colonel Spotswood.

¹ William, Lord Blakeney, made colonel in 1737, and sent to Cartagena, with rank of brigadier-general, in 1741. He was lieutenant-governor of Minorca in 1756 at the time when, after an heroic and hopeless defence of seventy days, that island was taken by the French.

The King has not thought proper to confine You to any particular Number of Men to be raised within your Government, His Majesty depending upon your Care and Zeal for His Service, That You will procure as many, as You possibly can.

You will consider, how much the Time presses, and will therefore use the utmost Expedition in making your Preparations. It is hoped, That My Lord Cathcart may be able to sail from hence, in April, or May next; And consequently You will take care, That the Troops, to be raised within your Government, may be ready to be transported, in Time, to the Place, that shall be appointed for the general Rendez-vous; with which Col^o Blakeney will acquaint You, as well as with every Thing else, that may be necessary for your further Information and Instruction.

You will be considering, in what manner to provide Transports, and Provisions; And even, if it be necessary, You will secure Them out of hand, for such a Number of Men, as, You shall judge, You may be able to get within your Government; Or; You will correspond with any of the Governors of the neighbouring Colonies, relating to this Matter, in such Manner, as You shall think proper.

I am persuaded, I need not say any Thing to induce You to use your utmost Care and Diligence in an Affair of this Importance; And for the Promoting the Success of a Service, in which the Honor of His Majesty's Crown, and the Interest of His Subjects (especially Those residing in America) are so essentially concerned. The many Injuries, and Cruelties, which the Inhabitants of the British Plantations

have suffered from the Violence, and Depredations of the Spaniards, will, I doubt not, be an additional Motive to engage all His Majesty's faithfull Subjects there, to exert Themselves with an uncommon Zeal, on this Occasion.

I am, Gentlemen

Your most obedient humble Servant

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

P. S. Tho' Colonel Blakeney will be dispatched, as soon as possible, with His Majesty's more particular Instructions, and Directions to You, Yet, That no Time may be lost, It is His Majesty's Pleasure, That immediately upon the Receipt of this Letter, You should Issue a Proclamation, in the proper form, Inviting His Majesty's Subjects, within your Government, chearfully to inlist in this Service, and assuring Them of a proper Encouragement for that Purpose.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Governor, and Company of the Colony of Rhode Island.

THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND TO THE
LORDS COMMITTEE OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL.¹

To the R^t Hon^{ble} the Lords of the Com^{tee} of His Majesty's most Hon^{ble} Privy Councill. For Plantation Affairs.

The humble Petition of the Governor and Company of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

¹ See letter of Partridge's, dated 1st mo. (March) 20, 1739. This document is not dated, but from an allusion in a letter of Partridge, written 12 mo. (February) 6, 1745, it is thought that January 19, 1740, may be the date at which it was written.

Sheweth That a former humble Petition was presented by your Peti^{rs} to His Majesty in Council in the Year 1734 praying a Settlem^t of a very old Controversy, about the Eastern Bounds of the Said Colony, towards his Majestys Province of the Massachusetts Bay, which Said Petition is by his Maj^{ty}s most Gracious Reference now depending before Your Lordships.

That His Majesty has been pleased, by your Lordships advice, to make Several Royal Orders in Council, during the Course of this Affair, particularly, One of the 30th of Nov^r last, whereby His Majesty ordered, that Commiss^{rs} Should be chosen, out of the Neighbouring Provinces for that Service, and that the Inhabitants of the Said Province and Colony Should in the mean time, Continue in the Peaceable Possession of their Property, without Molestation on Either Side, And another Order in Co^{ll} of the 17th Janry last, whereby his Majesty has been pleased to approve and order that 15 Gentlemen, therein named, Shall be the Commiss^{rs} for marking out and Settling the Boundarys, Between the Said Province of the Massachusetts Bay and the Colony of Rhode Island Eastward,

But no Commⁿ hath Yet Issued under the Great Seal for authorising Such Commiss^{rs} to mark out and Settle the Said Boundarys, nor hath the particular Clauses to be Contained in Such Commⁿ been hitherto Settled.

Wherefore, Your Petitioners (with the most humble duty and deference have hereunto Annexed a Proposal of the Several Clauses Similar (So far as re-

late to the Present Case) to those which were contained in the last Commⁿ issued in a like Instance, which are most humbly Submitted to your Lordships Consideration

And most humbly pray your Lordships That the Agent for the Mass^a Bay may be required to attend Your Lordships at Some Short day to declare his Objections (if any he hath) to all or any the Clauses to be Contained in Such Commⁿ And that the whole Charge of the Commⁿ and the Execution of it and of the Comm^{rs} and of their Clarks and Officers, may be ordered to be borne in Equal Moietys between the Said Colony and Province, Or to afford Your Petitioners Such other Relief, and in Such other manner, as to Your Lordships great Wisdom Shall Seem meet

And Your Petitioners Shall ever pray &c

1. *Whereas* a dispute hath been long Subsisting between his Majestys Province of the Mass^a Bay and his Colony of Rhode Island in America, relating to the Eastern Boundaries of the Said Colony towards the Said Province.

2 *His Majesty* therefore doth nominate authorise and appoint Cadwallader Colden, Abr^a Vanhorn, Philip Livingston, Archbald Kennedy, and James de Lancey Esq^{rs}, of the Province of New York, John Hamilton, John Wells, John Reading, Cornelius Vanhorn, and W^m Provost Esq^{rs}, of the Province of New Jersey, and W^m Skene, W^m Shirreff, Henry Cope, Erasmus James Philips and Otho Hamilton Esq^{rs} of the Province of Nova Scotia, Or any five or more of them, to be his Majestys Commiss^{rs} for Set-

ting adjusting and determining the Boundaries of the Said Colony, Eastwards in dispute as aforesaid.

3 *His Majestys* Will and Pleasure therefore is that the Said Comm^{rs} do repair by the first Convenient Opportunity, to the Town of Providence within the Said Colony, being most Conveniently Scituated for that Purpose and there hold their first Meeting on the 20th day of Septem^r which Shall be in the Year of Our Lord 1739 From which day and any future days of Adjournment, they may adjourn to Such Time and times as may be most Convenient for them.

4 *That* in Case 5 of the Comm^{rs} Shall not be present on the Said 20th day of Septem^r or on any other day of Adjournment, Then Such, or a Majority of Such of them as Shall be present, Shall and may adjourn the further Execution of this Commission in manner aforesaid.

5 *That* at their first meeting they do make Choice of One or more Clark or Clarks to enter their minutes and proceedings, as also of One or more Skilful persons to prepare dr^{ts} or Plans of the Country or Boundaries, as there Shall be from time to time Occasion

6 *That* they do administer to Such Clarks, or other persons as they Shall employ on Oath (Or if they shall be of the People Called Quakers an Affirm^a) for the due and faithful Execution of their Trusts.

7 *That* of the Comm^{rs} present at any Meeting, he who is first named in the List of Comm^{rs} Shall preside at Such Meeting, and Shall issue out the necessary

Sumons, for Such Witnesses as Either Party Shall require.

8 *That* the Said Comm^{rs} do use all Convenient dispatch in this Affair

9 *That* all determinations be made by a Majority of the Comm^{rs} who Shall be present at the respective Meetings, provided there Shall be then present 5 or more of the Said Commiss^{rs}

10 *That* in Case either the Said Province of the Mass^a Bay, or the Said Colony of Rhode Island, Shall neglect to send to the Comm^{rs} at the first day of Meeting of the Comm^{rs}, the Names and Places of abode of Two of their Publick Officers residing in the respective Province and Colony, On Either of whom or at whose Place of Abode, any Notices Sumons or Final Judgem^t of the Said Comm^{rs} may be Served or left, And in Case Either the Said Province, or the Said Colony, Shall neglect to send to the Said Comm^{rs} at the first day of meeting of the Comm^{rs} a plain and full State in Writing of the demands or Pretensions of the Said Province and Colony, respectively, whene and in what Places the Boundaries of the Said Colony, Eastwards ought to begin, and what Courses, and with what Variation, and in what manner, and how farr the Same ought to Run (to the End that Copys thereof may be mutually Exchanged in order to prevent any unnecessary delay, and that Each party may Come fully prepared), Then in Either of those Cases the Said Comm^{rs} or any 5 or more of them, do proceed *Exparte*.

11 *That* no Witness or Witnesses be allow'd of by the Comm^{rs} to give Evidence, but Such as Shall

be Sworn (or being of the People Called Quakers, Shall take a Solemn Affirm^a) before the Comm^{rs} in open Court, w^{ch} Oath or Affirm^a the Comm^{rs} or any 5 or more of them are hereby impowered to Administer.

12 *That* all Interrogatorys and Questions which Shall be put to Such Witnesses before the Comm^{rs} Shall be Sett down in Writing and that the whole of what Such Witnesses Shall offer to the Comm^{rs} Shall also be Sett down in Writing by the Said Clark or Clarks, in the presence of the Comm^{rs} and of the Respective Witnesses, and that the Same be read over to and Signed by the Respective Witnesses.

13 *That* either party may cross Examine any of the other partys Witnesses And that all Such Examinations and cross Examinations be taken privately before the Comm^{rs} and their Clarks, but that neither of the partys or any of their Agents, Shall be present at the Same.

14 *That* the Comm^{rs} Shall appoint Such time as they Shall find reasonable within which all the Witnesses on Each Side, Shall be produced to be Examined and that when the Witnesses Shall be examined, the Comm^{rs} Shall direct Public^a of the Examinations, and Either party Shall be at Liberty to take out Copys of the whole Examinations and Cross Examinations on both Sides.

15 *That* after the Copys of Such Examinations and Cross Examinations Shall be ready for Each party the Comm^{rs} Shall then appoint a day for giving Judgment which day Shall not be less then 10

days, nor more then 30 days after the time that Each party may have out the Copys of the depositions unless the partys Shall jointly agree on any further or other time, as more Convenient for the Comm^{rs} and Themselves

16 *That* after Public^a no new or further Evidence Shall be Received from Either Side.

17 *That* Entrys be made of all Charters, Grants, deeds, Evidences, Proofs, and Plans Received by the Comm^{rs} in this affaire and also of all the Comm^{rs} proceedings and Resolutions throughout the Same, and that Such Plans Maps or dr^{ts} of the Boundary lines as Shall be agreed upon by the Comm^{rs} be annexed to and made part of the Comm^{rs} determination

18 *That* when the Comm^{rs} Shall have made their final determina^a and Signed the Same, A Copy thereof Shall be forthwith Sent to Such publick Officer or Officers in the said Province and Colony respectively together with Notice of another Meeting, to be held by the Comm^{rs} att the distance of Six Weeks or at Such further reasonable time, not Exceeding 3 Calendar Months, as the Comm^{rs} Shall appoint.

19 *That* at Such future Meeting, the Said Province and the Said Colony respectively or Either of them, who Shall find themselves aggrieved, may Enter their Appeal to his Majesty in his Privy Council with a declaration what Part of the determin^a of the Comm^{rs} they respectively abide by or appeal from.

20 *That* if the Said Province, or the Said Colony, Shall not Enter their respective Appeal or Exception against Such determin^a at Such last meeting

Then no Appeal or Exception Shall be afterwards Received or admitted from Such of the partys who Shall omit to Enter their respective Appeals or Exceptions at Such last meeting of the Comm^{rs}; And in Case neither the Said Province nor the Said Colony Shall then Enter any Appeal or Exceptions, the determin^a of the Comm^{rs} (Being Confirmed by his Majesty in Councill) Shall be final and Conclusive to both the Said Province and Colony.

21 *That* the Said Province and the Said Colony be permitted to take out at their own respective Expence Copys of the whole proceedings, Proofs, Exhibits, Plans, and all other Papers and Writings in this Affair, to be attested by 3 or more of the Comm^{rs}.

22 *That* the Comm^{rs} do Return a fair Copy of the whole Record, attested by 3 or more of them to His Majesty in Councill

23 *That* the Charge of the Commission and of the Carrying it into Execution and of the Comm^{rs} their Clarks Surveyors and Officers be borne and paid in Equal Moietys by the Said Province and the Said Colony

[January 19, 17⁸⁸₄₈ ?]

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Gov^r Wanton

1st mo. 20th. 17⁸⁸₄₈

I have already writ thee and others per this Ship a duplicate of mine of the 18. xber last since which I have often pressd our Solicitor for getting out

the Commission Pursuant to my Petition lodged pretty early for that purpose at the Council Office as I have heretofore advised thee, but have not yett been able to obtain it, the Lord President of the Council being intent of late (as I am told) in other Affairs, Particular[1]y the Matter of the Boundary between the Massachusetts and New Hampshire,¹ that there was no getting ours relating to the Colony of Rhoad Island forward, but now I hope we shall soon, as the other is adjusted which went altogether in favour of New Hampshire.

Nothing done in Parliment yet relating to further inforceing the Sugar Act or Iron, or the Paper Currency in the Plantations, and which I believe they hardly will now as the Sessions is so farr advanced, tho' they say the Lords of Trade will lay before them a Representation: if they shoud I intend to send thee a Copy of it.

As to Publick News, France Stands Neuter still and does not publickly take part in the part between the Spaniards and us but as the Spaniards are greatly distress'd (not with standing what they may pretend otherwise) its not very unlikely that France will Succour them if they can. for the rest I refer to the Prints herewith sent and remain

Thy &c
RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To Governor WANTON.

¹ See note on p. 81.

ALEXANDER SPOTSWOOD¹ TO GOVERNOR WANTON.GEMANNA IN VIRGINIA April 3^d 1740.*Sir*

The Paquet, which I now transmit to you from the Duke of Newcastle His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State, came to my hand Yesterday; the Colchester Man of War being sent Express to bring the same to me: And as His Majesty has Honour'd me with the Charge of Concerting Measures with all his Governors here on the Continent of America, for the Assistance which their respective Provinces may Afford towards an important Expedition now on foot, against the Spanish Settlemen^{ts} in the West Indies, I purpose for that end, very soon personally to Kiss yo^r hands.

In the meantime His Grace's Letter will, I doubt not, induce you zealously to set about the encouraging the people Under your Government, to engage in so Glorious an undertaking; which they may certainly look upon as a Golden Adventure: Especially when they learn that Vice-Admiral Vernon has already Oblig'd the Inhabitants of Porto-Bello, to redeem their Town from being burnt, by the payment of Three Millions of Pieces of Eight; besides his taking three 2 or 3 Spanish Men of War, and 15 or 16 Merchant Men. Now if the Admiral could atchieve this with the Squadron at present under his Command; what place, on the Coasts of the Spanish

¹ Spotswood was governor of Virginia from 1710 to 1722, and always a prominent figure in the colony. In 1730 he was appointed deputy-postmaster for the colonies, and was commissioned major-general in 1740. He died in June while superintending the embarking of troops at Annapolis.

West Indies, can withstand our Attempts, when reinforced with another Squadron of Men of War, and Eight or Ten Thousand Land Forces from Europe, together with five or Six Thousand Volunteers, inured to the Climate of America, which we may Probably raise upon this Continent, and in our Islands in the West Indies?

As an inducement to your people, to engage in the intended Expedition, it may not be amiss to remark to them the very prudent care which His Majesty has taken of their Interests; by appointing an Old Experienc'd Officer (who has resided among them 25 years, and has his Estate fixt in this part of the world) to have the particular Command of the North American Forces: whereby they may assuredly expect, that He will be a Strenuous Stickler in their behalf to have Justice done them, in their due share of the Booty.

Your honouring me with your frequent Correspondence, at this juncture, and informing me of the Progress you make in the intended Levies; or of what Success you expect therein, may very much conduce to the orderly carrying on the present Service; And whatever Government I may be in, my Deputy Post-Masters will safely convey your Letters to S^r

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

A SPOTSWOOD

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 2^d mo: the 4. 1740*Gov^r. Wanton*

The foregoing is duplicate of my last to thee per Cap^t Remick. Since which the Lords of Trade have laid before the Parliam^t on the 28 ult. Copys of the Several acco^{ts} of Paper Currency in the Plantations w^{ch} they recd from the respective Governm^{ts}, just as they came over without makeing any remarks thereon, as thou wilt see by the inclosed Paper herewith sent thee.¹ the Board had indeed prepared a pretty long Representation on the Subject, but when they had done it, did not send it to either the Lords or Commons for Certain Reasons they had with themSelves; perhaps they might apprehend Part of it might give occasion of disgust to some Persons; however it lyes by them and whether they will make any use of it hereafter I know not, however as I have had a Sight of it I procurd a Copy and shall send it thee in my next; those Papers w^{ch} the Board of Trade have laid before both Houses lye on their Table to be perusd by the Members after they were read and nothing at all yet further done therein; I shall still be on the Watch to observe what proceedings have been made thereabout and act as shall be judgd necessary and advise thee accordingly, which is the present needfull from

Thy assured Friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

along with the Lond^o Magazine w^{ch} goes by this Ship

1 Not in the archives.

for Sec^{ry} Martin I sent thee a Plan of Puerto Bello harbour and also an other Plan of w^{ch} I desire thy acceptance

To Governor W^{ANTON}.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND
COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL April 5th 1740.

Gentlemen,

I acquainted you by my Letter of January the 5th with His Majesty's Intentions to send from hence a large Body of Forces under the Command of My Lord Cathcart,¹ in order to make an attempt upon some of the most considerable of the Spanish Settlements in the West Indies; which are to be joined by such a Number of Troops, as may be raised in His Majesty's Colonys and Islands in America; And at the same Time I sent you His Majesty's Directions to be making the necessary Dispositions, in order to facilitate, as soon as possible, the raising the Troops within your Government; And I informed you, that Col^o Blakeney,² who is appointed Adjutant General in this Expedition, would set out from hence, as soon as possible, with the King's more particular Instructions and Directions to you and the other Governors in America, relating to this Matter: And His Majesty doubts not, but that, in consequence of these Orders, you will have taken the necessary

¹ See p. 140.

² See p. 144.

Steps to get the Levys in as much Forwardness as possible.

I now send you inclosed His Majesty's Instructions,¹ under His Royal Sign Manual, containing particular Directions for your Conduct in every Thing, relating to the Performance of this Service, which are so full, that they leave me nothing to add, but to recommend to you the utmost Care and Diligence in the Execution of His Majesty's Orders, and particularly in procuring as great a Number of Men, as you possibly can, to enlist, which by the great Encouragement, which (you will see by your Instructions) His Majesty has thought fit to give to such Persons, as shall enter into His Service on this Occasion, It is hoped, may be easily done. You will see, that Col^o Blakeney carries with him from hence only 3000 Arms; You will not however limit the Number of Men to be raised within your Government, in proportion to that Number of Arms; since My Lord Cathcart will carry with him a Quantity of Spare Arms and Cloathing, in case it should be practicable to raise a greater Number, than the Three Thousand, for which Col^o Blakeney carries with him Arms, and Money for their Subsistence.

As you cannot but be sensible of the great Importance of this Service, and how much the Honour of His Majesty's Crown, and the Interest of His Subjects (especially Those in America) are concerned in the Success of this Expedition, I am persuaded you will omit nothing on your part, that may contribute thereto, by doing all that lies in your Power,

¹ See the following document.

to promote the Levys, as soon, and as effectually, as may be, in which you will judge from the advanced Season, there is no Time to be lost; and you may be assured, that your Zeal in the Execution of the King's Orders on this Occasion, will be very graciously accepted by His Majesty.

Major General Spotswood,¹ whom His Majesty has been pleased to appoint Quarter Master General in this Expedition, and Colonel of the Troops to be raised in America, will receive His Majesty's Directions to sail with such a Number of the said Troops, as He can get together, so as to be at the Place appointed for the General Rendezvous by the latter End of August, or the Beginning of September next; And He will leave Directions with proper Persons to follow him with the rest of the Troops, as they shall be raised.

And if you should find Difficulty in raising the Men within your Government by the Methods that may occur to you for that purpose, It is His Majesty's Pleasure, that you should, in that Case, permit Major General Spotswood, Col^o Blakeney, or any Persons appointed by them, to beat up for Volunteers, and that you should, to the utmost of your Power, assist them in it.

I heartily wish you Success in the Execution of His Majesty's Orders, and am, Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant.

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island.

¹ See p. 140.

GEORGE II. TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.¹

GEORGE R.

Secret Instruction for Our Trusty and Welbeloved the Governor and Company of Our Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in America, or the Governor and Company of Our said Colony for the time being. Given at Our Court at St James's the Second Day of April 1740, in the Thirteenth Year of Our Reign.

Whereas We have been graciously pleased to charge Ourselves with the Cloathing, Arming and Pay of the Troops to be raised in Our Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation under your Government, and have likewise given them many other great Encouragements to enter into Our Service, as, by your Instructions upon that Subject, will appear, and therefore have Reason to hope, that the Assembly of Our said Colony will make no Difficulty of complying with Our Eighth Instruction to you, whereby you are ordered to recommend to them to provide Victuals, Transports and all other Necessaries for the Troops to be raised by them, except their Cloaths. Tents, Arms, Ammunition and Pay, till their Arrival at the General Rendezvous in the West Indies. However, that this Expedition may not be defeated for want of an early and sufficient Supply of Transports and Provisions, in case Our said Colony shall heartily exert themselves in the Execution of the rest of Our Orders, and shall, within a reasonable Time, raise a large Body of Men

¹ Enclosed in the Duke of Newcastle's letter of April 5, 1740.

for Our Service, if they cannot be induced forthwith to comply with Our Orders herein, You are hereby empowered to engage Transports and secure Provisions, for the purpose aforesaid, upon the best Terms you are able, and to draw upon the Commissioners of Our Navy for the payment thereof.

G R.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 2^d mo. the 12th 1740

Governour Wanton

My last to thee was per Cap^t Fones of the 3^d Inst. to which I refer. wherein I intimated that the Lords of Trade had lately laid before the Parliament the sev^l accounts they recd from the Governors of the Plantations relating to the State of Paper Currency &c. just as they came over without making any Remarks thereon. this now brings thee a Copy of that Boards Representation which they had prepar'd to lay before both Houses of Parliam^t, but afterwards on some considerations declind it and which still lyes in their Office, whether any or what use of it may be made hereafter we know not, as for my part I have never given them any aco^t relating to the Paper Currency of Rh^d Island, neither indeed could I with any certainty; but here is Ch: Kilby¹ one of the Massachus^s Assembly come over to Solicit something relating to the extention of the Gov.^{rs} Instructions for issuing Bills of Credit, who has been before that Board, and I am apt to think was examin'd on

1 Provincial agent for Massachusetts at London.

that head in generall, but beleive he will scarce in any wise accomplish the end he was sent over for, — The House of Commons have appointed the 16th Inst for taking into consideration the afores^d several acco^{ts} presented them by the Lords of Trade.

16, ditto

Since writing the foregoing I attended at the House of Commons and saw that when the affair of the Paper Currency was to have come on they put off the consideration of it to the 23^d Instant at w^{ch} time I intend to be there again but am apt to think they will Scarce do much in it this Sessions the time being so far Spent I am with due regards

Thy Assured Friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

To Governour WANTON.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LOND.^o 2^d mo. the 17. 1740

Governor Wanton

I have already writ thee per this Conveyance of the 12th Inst to which I refer, but since then I have learnd how far the Parliam^t are like to proceed this Sessions touching the Paper Currency Affair and w^{ch} I find is agreed on beforehand, viz That they will only come now to Some Resolutions thereupon, the principal of which will be, that the House do address the King that he wo^d be pleas'd to give Instructions to the Gov^r of our Plantations not to pass any Act for Emitting any more Bills of Credit

without its being first approv'd of here — and I expect on the 23 Inst it will be resolv'd accordingly.

thus I judgd it my duty to give thee the necessary Information from time to time of what Steps have been and are like to be taken in a Matter which so nearly affects the Plantations, as I shall also continue to do for the future who am

Thy assured Fr^d

R^D PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r

Governor of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COM-
PANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL 18th April 1740.

Gentlemen,

I send you herewith, by His Majesty's Command, a printed Copy of an Act of Parliament,¹ which was passed this Session, for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His Majesty's British Subjects to America, and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His Majesty's Service; I am to acquaint you with His Majesty's Pleasure, that you should cause the same to be made publick in His Majesty's Province under your Government. I also inclose to you His Majesty's Royal Proclamation relating thereto.

¹ See letter of the Lords of Admiralty to the Governor and Company of Rhode Island, of May 20, 1740, on p. 159.

You will observe, that there is a Clause in this Act, by which the entire property of all Prizes, that shall be made by any Privateer, in consequence of Commissions granted to them after the 4th of January last, by Persons authorized for that purpose, is vested in the Captors, except as to the Customs and Dutys mentioned in the said Act. This I am persuaded, will be a great Inducement to His Majesty's Subjects to fit out rival Ships against the Spaniards, which you will encourage Those under your Government to do, as soon and as effectually as possible. And His Majesty doubts not but You will employ your utmost Diligence and Attention, that the Ends proposed by this Act may be fully obtained.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most humble Servant

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island

GENERAL SPOTSWOOD TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

ANNAP^o 26th April 1740.

Sir

I Expected to have been by this time forwarder in my way to confer w^t the Northern Governours about the grand Expedition now on foot, but the Difficulties and delays that I met with in the Government of Virginia has retarded my Journey, wherefore I send this express to inform you the sooner of the measures I have Concerted w^t the Governour of N. Carolina Virginia and Maryland; and more

especially of that one necessary step wch Requires to be first settled, I mean the pay of the Troops wch ought all to be upon one uniform footing, otherwise when the new Levies of every Province come to serve together, Dissatisfactions, and Consequently mutinies, might arise from some Receiving higher pay than others; There are scarce any two Provinces on this Continent, that agree in the Value of their Currency, and in every one of 'em the Exchange between their Currency and Sterling is Continually varying: So that to avoid all confusion in Acco^{ts}, and clearly to Satisfie the Common Soldiers, that they are all serving upon the same pay, I have taken upon me to Advise that the pay promis'd 'em should be one Pistole for every Kalendar month; and to encourage several sorts of men to enlist, I have advis'd a Publication, narrating that whereas many men might be desirous of leaving some Subsistance money with their Families; Several Debtors might be able to clear off, or Compound w^t their Creditors; and many Servants might obtain their Masters leave to enlist, If three or four months pay were promis'd to be advanc'd, and pay'd to their Respective assigns after their Embarkation: I have had the experience of these kind of proposals having had very Good Effects; when in the Year 1716, I being Governour of Virginia, Rais'd immediately men, and sent them away to the Succour of S^c Carolina, and 'twill be carrying on the King's service w^t greater Frugality than by Giving every man Bounty money.

So soon as the Adjutant General arrives w^t the Kings full Instructions, you may expect to hear from

me more at large on this Subject: In the mean while I desire you'll take all opportunities to let me know what success you are likely to have in Raising men for the intended Expedition; That I may by the first occasion Transmit such Accounts to the Secretary of State (as I am Commanded) to be forthwith laid before his Majesty for his Information and Satisfaction.

I am S^r

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

A SPOTSWOOD

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON the 2^d 3^d mo. 1740

Govern^r Wanton

My last to thee was of the 12 ult per Cap^t Rymes. This now brings thee the Votes of the House of Commons 4 days before they were prorogu'd, containing Several Smart Resolutions respecting the Paper Currency and Gold and Silver Coins in the Plantations w^{ch} were designed (as I apprehend) preparatory to some Law to be passd relating thereto next Sessions of Parliam^t, which Resolutions were very hastily come in to, they being proposd and agreed on at a Committee of the whole House one day, then reported and concluded on the next; but it was by the House of Commons only, the Lords did nothing at all in it: and it is observable that they were proposd and carryed through at the Instance of three of the Members principally who are of the side of the Minority of the House being Anti-

Courtiers viz. S^r Jn^o Barnard Sam^l Sandys and All^r Hume Campbell Esq^{rs} and its beleivd that the chief aim of some of them in it, was more with a view to puzzle and perplex the Ministry and Spirit up the Plantations against them than any thing else, but be that as it will they have addressd the King pursuant to their Resolutions who has assur'd them that he will on his part comply with what is desired ;

The next day after those Matters passd the House, I reflecting on the many Inconveniencys that might attend in the Consequence, waited on Esq^r Sandys and Hume Campbell at their Houses where I was civilly treated and had a great deal of Conversation in discourse with them, Setting forth the great hardships and Confusion to the Colonys that woud Attend the Consequence of the Royal Orders pursuant to their Addresses if it were practicable to be complyd with, but it was apprehended that it could not be with any possibility ; and that had they not so hastily passd those Resolutions I shou'd have desired to have been heard at the Bar of the House against them, but at present (as they allowd) I was precluded. pretty much the Substance of my Argum^{ts} I afterw^{ds} committed to writing w^{ch} for thy &c Satisfaction I send thee herewith.¹ what effect my Reasonings (which they heard with attention) may have with them I know not but I perswade myself those Gentlemen were a little Softned : — and as it happend that I was not now heard before the House it is as well, seeing at next Sessions we shall have this Plea to urge that I had not the opportunity of laying

¹ See the following document.

before them the many Inconveniencys that w^d unavoidably attend the Execution of their Resolutions especially too as there was not time for digesting our Arguments so duely as they ought to be.

Hume Campbell intimated that as to the Charter Governm^{ts} their Intention was not to hurt them in their privilidges but only to oblige them to transmit their Laws hither and that they sh^d send over answers to the Board of Trade as other Colonys did when required pusuant to addresses of Parliament; so now thou wilt in concert with the Legislature of the Colony give me proper Instructions how to act against the Parliam^t meets again to do business w^{ch} I beleive will scarce be this Six months.

C. Kilby indeed for the Massach^{ts} got a Petition delivered to the House just in time and was heard at the Bar, but it did not seem to make much Impression upon them so as to alter the Scheme of their Intentions.

As to the Affair of the Commission¹ we have not been able to get it passd yet tho' I have frequently pressd for it; the reasons of its being retarded I refer thee to my Solicitors letter for, which comes inclosed, but I shall still pursue it till its accomplishd.

As to publick News, the War with Spain is continued to be carried on with Vigour, the French still remain Neuter, and as long as they do so, to be sure the Dutch will take no part in our Comotions — for the rest I refer to the Publick Prints herewith sent and remain

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

¹ Commission for determining the Massachusetts boundary.

Since the foregoing I attended wth my Solicitor at the L^{ds} Committee of Council and they have referd my Petition for a Commission to the Board of Trade to consider and settle the Heads of a Commission for the Boundary after having called the Partys before them.

The Parliam^t have passd a Law for encouragem^t of Seamen w^{ch} I send thee herewith — and here is also a list of the Members of the Lords and Commons.

To Governour WANTON.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO MESSRS. SANDYS¹ AND CAMPBELL.²

Relating to the Resolution of the House of Commons about Paper Currency: Arguments urgd to Sam^l Sandys and Alex^r Hume Cambell Esq^{rs} per R P.³

That the Kings Proclamation and Orders to the several Governors of the British Plantations in consequence of the Addresses of the House would be very prejudicial and tend to putting the said Plantations into great confusion for the following Reasons.

For that should the Proclamation be issued for reducing Gold and Silver Coin agreeable to the Proclamation of Queen Ann Viz to 6/10^d per oz for Silver, the consequence would be (if it took effect)

¹ Samuel, first Baron Sandys, was member for Worcester from 1718 to 1743, when he became Lord Sandys and took his seat in the Upper House. He was prominent as an opponent of the Walpole administration, but, although he held several lucrative court appointments, was not a man of any great political importance.

² Hume Campbell was an advocate of the Court of King's Bench, and was, in 1742, Solicitor-General to the Prince.

³ Enclosed in Partridge's letter of 3 mo. (May) 2, 1740.

that all Commodities would unavoidably Sink in proportion thereto which would greatly affect Contracts for Goods already Sold to the ruin of many.

That the People not having the priviledge of Coining any money are under a necessity of a Medium of Trade to carry on their Commerce, all Gold and Silver passing there as Merchandize is brought up to make returns for Goods imported from Great Britain, they being constantly in great distress for want of a sufficient Supply of such Commodities as are suitable to send over to pay for the Goods that are sent them from hence, and consequently the People there allways greatly in debt to Great Britain which makes the Ballance of Trade in favour of the latter, and that will naturally drain away all the Gold and Silver from amongst them.

That should the People there be prohibited from Issuing Paper Money (without which they cannot carry on their Commerce and Trade) it would yet very greatly distress them, be the Ruin of many Familys and a vast hurt to the several Governments, for that if the intended Proclamation and the Royal Order of prohibition take effect the Consequence would be that as all Landed Estates would sink to one fourth part of the value; the Paper Bills now current would be of course equal to Gold and Silver: The said Bills when first issued were lent out on Land Security on the following or like manner Viz To a Man whose Estate was worth £1600 they lent £1200 of those Bills at 5 per Cent Int^l to be repaid in 7 or 10 years or at a certain period of time, at which time the Bills were to be called in and sunk

with the money so repaid to the Government, and more issued on the same foot: but in the mean time out comes the Proclamation and Royal Orders whereby the coin is reduced the Estate sunk in value from £1600 to £400 so that the proprietor looses his whole Estate because he took up £1200 upon it, which the Government has his Land in Mortgage for; the Mortgagor is therefore Ruined, and the Colony looses £800 out of the £1200 they lent, and must yet be obligd to buy up their Bills at the period of time for calling them in, which would greatly distress them, and put them as is before said into the utmost confusion.

That as to the Charter Governments, they have from the encouragement given them by their Charter (particularly Rhode Island for whom I am concern'd) Cultivated and improv'd a Wilderness Country, and defended it at the hazard of their Lives and Estates from the Native Indians without a Shilling Expence to the Crown (tho' its well known other Colonys have caused this Nation many thousand pounds); They have the privilidge of making Laws among themselves for the good Ordering of their Government so as they are not repugnant to the Laws of England without being obligd to transmit them home, which privilidge they have now enjoyed for a great Number of Years and I hoped that the Commons of Great Britain allways tender of Liberty and property will not now deprive them thereof, especially seeing they are already Crampt in the Foreign Trade and are of so great advantage to this Kingdom by taking off annually considerable quantitys of its Manufac-

tures. and then I particularly describd and Set forth the nature and different manner of the making returns from the Plantations to pay for those Manufactures &c.^a

And that as to the rise of the Exchange I did not apprehend it was owing to the Emission of Bills of Credit as had been Suggested, for in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York they Emitted considerable quantitys and yet the Exchange there had not advanced 40 per C^t this 20 years; tho I believe I might say 20 per cent in 20 years. but that the occasion of so great a difference in the Exchange between New England and Great Britain was from quite an other Reason, as that they were so constantly overloaded with Goods from England and allways largely in debt for want of a Supply of Returns sufficient to pay for them, that the Factors were eager in buying up whatever Commoditys was brought to Market suitable to be sent home, as fast as ever they came; that they bid upon one another and thereby enhanced the prices one upon another which of Course will inevitably raise the price of Silver and Gold and that is certainly what Governs the Exchange &c

Endorsed: Some hints of R. P.'s Arguments wth 2 memb^s of the H^o of Commons.

THE LORDS OF ADMIRALTY TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

By the Commiss^{rs} for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of Great Britain and Ireland &c.

Whereas by an Act passed the last Session of Parliament, (entitled, an Act for the more effectual securing and encouraging the Trade of His Majesty's British Subjects to America; and for the Encouragement of Seamen to enter into His Majesty's Service) it is, amongst other Things, therein enacted; "That any Person or Persons in any Part of America or elsewhere, by us empowered and appointed, shall, from and after the Fourth Day of January, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Nine, at the Request of any British Owner or Owners of any Ship or Vessel, given such Bail and Security as have been usually taken upon granting Commissions or Letters of Marque, (except only for the Payments of the Tenth of the Value of Prizes which shall be taken, to the Lord High Admiral or Commissioners for Executing the Office of Lord High Admiral for the Time being) cause to be issued forth in the usual Manner, One or more Commission or Commissions, to any Person or Persons, whom such Owner or Owners shall nominate to be Commander, or in case of Death, successively Commander of such Ship or Vessel, for the attacking, surprizing, seizing, and taking, by and with such Ship Vessel, or the Crew thereof, any Place or Fortress upon the Land, or any Ship or Vessel, Goods, Ammunition, Arms, Stores of War or Merchandizes, belonging to, or possessed

“ by any of His Majesty’s Enemies, in any Sea, Creek, Haven, or River.

These are therefore to empower you the Governor, and Company of His Majesty’s Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in New England, and by these Presents, We do empower and appoint you the said Governor and Company, to cause to be issued forth pursuant to the said Act, by Warrant under your Hand, and the Seal of the said Island and Plantation, directed to the Judge of the Admiralty of the said Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation, Commissions, or Letters of Marque, at the Request of any British Owner or Owners of any Ship or Vessel, to any Person or Persons, whom such Owner or Owners shall nominate to be Commander or incase of Death successively Commanders of such Ship or Vessel, and to cause such Bail and Security to be taken as is directed by the said Act, and moreover to cause, that in granting such Commissions or Letters of Marque, all other Things be had and done conformable to, and as the said Act requires ; For which This shall be your Warrant. Given under Our Hands, and the Seal of the Office of Admiralty, this 20th Day of May 1740.

D. LYNDON.

THO CLUTTERBUCK.

VERE

To The Governor and Company of His Majesty’s
Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plan-
tation in New England

By Command of their Lordships.

BERREKE

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 4 mo. the 19th 1740

Governor Wanton

Since the foregoing Several of the Agents for our Plantation Governments have been again sent for by the Lords of Trade to attend them on the Subject of the Bills of Credit who intimated to us that when we sh^d receive answers to the respective letters they had writ, We would bring the same to their Board and that if we had any thing to offer on that head we might lay it before them in writing, upon which I acquainted that Board that I had duely attended the House of Commons whilst that Matter was debated there and I intended to have Petition'd that I might have been heard at the Bar of the House against their Resolutions which were so hastily carried thro' that I was precluded: That afterwards I waited on 2 of the principal Members concern'd in conducting that Affair in the House viz Esq^{rs} Sandys and Alex^r Hume Cambell with whom I had a pretty deal of discourse setting forth the great Inconveniencys that would be the consequence of their Resolutions, and that I had committed to writing¹ some of my arguments used wth those Gentlemen which having with me I presented it to that Board for their purusal: — at the same time I also signified that it was my opinion as well as some others this Affair had been carried on principally with a view to distress the Ministry and the Plantations more than any thing else: but that I did not look upon it practicable to

¹ See p. 155.

be carried into Execution, — an other Copy of my said Papers is here inclosed.

And now also brings thee Copy of the Lords of Trades Report¹ to the L^{ds} Committee of Council upon a reference for drawing up a proper draught of Heads and Clauses of a Commission to be Issued for settling our Boundarys Line. after we had waited on the Board a considerable time and carefully settled all the Articles and now we shall go on pursuing the Affair till the Comission be compleated.

The War continues with Spain, France holds Neuter still and when there will be any alteration therein is altogether uncertain for the rest I refer to the prints herewith sent and remain with due respects.

Thy assured Friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

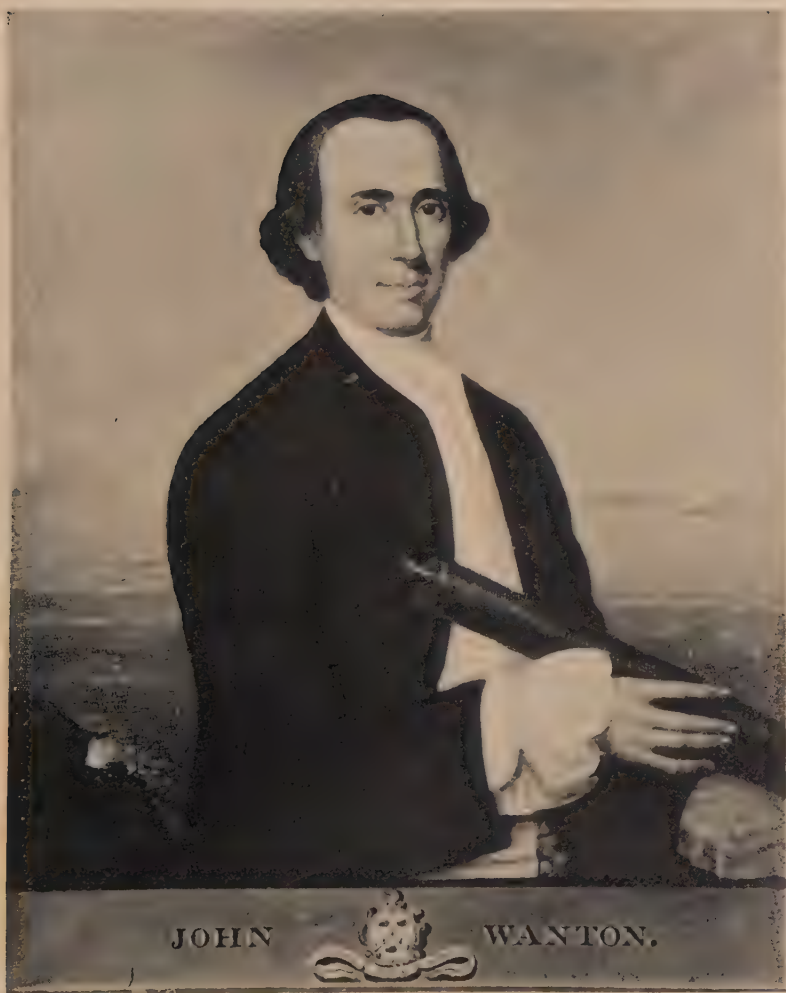
thy nephew Cap^t Benj. Wanton is safe arrived here from Carrolina and is for going back directly thither in the Same Ship.

Thy Packett for thee of prints I send to Benj. Bagnall (per Cap^t Snelling) at Boston to forwarded to thee.

5 mo. 5th 1740

I have writt thee allready of 19th ult as above to which I refer: a War with France is lately talkt off afresh as if they were now in earnest, but whether it will blow over or not time must discover. I send thee per this Conveyance the abstract of the Laws past the last Sessions of Parliament and a Book of

¹ This report is not in the archives.



1734-1740



Trade and Sundry news papers per Peter Harrison
a Passenger with Cap^t Patterson

R PARTRIDGE

To JOHN WANTON Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations

GOVERNOR BELCHER TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Sir

I Receiv'd the Inclosed by the last Post from New York to be forwarded to your Honour I am now to inform Your Honour that the last Week arrivd to one of our Out Harbours a Ship of upwards One hundred Tuns from the Canaries one William M^r who pretends to be last from Madera. I am told the M^r, tho an Englishman, is a Roman, a Subject of Spain, and marry'd at the Canaries. I have good reason to beleive he has run his Cargoe a Shore in Some of our Out Ports, and the Officers are making Search after it. The Ship Came full hither, and was met empty going, as the M^r said (when he was hal'd) to Rhode Island — others say She was bound to New York, and its generally Suppos'd She is come for a load of Provisions for the Havanna or some other parts of the Spanish West Indies for which (by all advices) the Spaniards are greatly distrest. This I have thought proper to Communicate to you that there may be a good look out for Seizing this Ship if She comes your way — I am in all your

Commands for His Majesty's Service, and for your own, Sir,

Your Honours Most Obedient and Most Humble Serv^t

J. BELCHER

BOSTON June 30. 1740.

GOV^r WANTON

COLONEL WILLIAM BLAKENEY TO THE GOVERNOR AND
COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

NEW YORK 7 July 1740.

Sirs

As the several Companies of the Regiment of Foot now raising in America commanded by the Hon^{ble} Colol. William Gooch¹ are to remain till compleated in the respective Provinces in which they are raised, it will be necessary to pay the Officers commissioned in America their Subsistence from the Dates of their Commissions and the private men from the days of their being regularly attested before a Magistrate and as it is thought most for the Interest of his Majesty's Service that the Governours in their respective Provinces be entrusted with this Payment I have sent you here enclosed an Estimate of the Subsistence of one Company for three Months amounting [to] £333.11.6 Sterling which for the two Companies to be raised in your Province is £667.3. — which Sum, or as much thereof as there may be occasion for, I desire you will advance and

¹ William Gooch was governor of Virginia from 1727 to 1747, and accompanied the Virginia forces to Cartagena in 1741.

pay to said Companies, according to said Estimate, taking of each Captain one Receipt for the Subsistence of himself and Company, one Receipt of the first and second Lieutenants their Pay per Day being the same and one Receipt of the Ensigns, mentioning in each Receipt the Exchange you pay them at for the Sterling in your Currency. Of these Receipts (a Form whereof is also inclosed) the Officers are to sign four Duplicates of the same Tenor and Date, one whereof please to keep for your own Voucher and transmit the other three to me; and for your Reimbursement of what you shall thus advance and pay please to draw on me here for the same in Sterling at such Exchange as is most for the Interest of the Service and your Bills shall meet with due Honour.

I am Sirs

Your most obedient humble Servant

WILL BLAKENEY.

The Officers from Europe are paid Subsistence to the 24 Instant.

The Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

COLONEL WILLIAM GOOCH TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Sir

As You are already apprized of the Method of Levying the Forces for the intended Expedition; I have only to desire the Favour of a particular Account from You of the Number of Men You have

or are likely to Raise directed to the Lieu^t Gov^r of Virginia at New York.

I have inclosed You Commissions for Two Companies, (the Number of Men at present expected from Your Government,) and sent You the like Number of Lieutenants and Serjeants, with Arms, Cloathing for Officers and Powder; so must desire You to form the Men you have Inlisted accordingly; I have likewise desired Coll^l Blakeney, who has the Management of the Cash, to Remit You Money, or Credit to raise it in order to pay the Men from the time of their Inlisting; and to avoid any disappointment that may hereafter attend this Service, I must earnestly entreat You to provide Transports, and put the Troops on board at such a Convenient Season, that I may depend on their being at the place of Rendezvous within the Capes of Virginia before the Midle of September.

I am perswaded Nothing will be wanting on Your part, in an Affair of this importance, in which I heartily wish You Success; and have the Honour to be, Sir

Your most Obed^t Hum^{le} Servant

WILL: GOOCH

NEW YORK the 8th of July 1740.

P.S. please to date the Commissions the 9th of June and Endorse on the back the date of delivery

The Governour of Rhode Island

GOVERNOR RICHARD WARD¹ TO COLONEL GOOCH.

S^r:

I Rec^d your favour by L^t Howard; with the Commissions for the two Companies; and now inform you of our proceeding in Levying Troops for the expedition agst the Spaniards. On receiving his Maj^{ty}s Orders and Instructions Our assembly forthwith gave a Bounty to every effective Person that should enlist in his Maj^{ty}s Service but not knowing what number of Troops his Majesty Required of this Colony did without any regard of any proportion wth the other Governments: and with the Utmost Zeal and Vigour with pleasure and chearfulness Enlisted ab^t 270 Men (tho wee are the least Government on the Continent that are ordered to Enlist any) and have out of them compleated two full companies of a hundred men each.

This Government have also hired two Transports Sufficient for the Troops raised; which will be at the Rendezvous in Virginia by the time prefixed and nothing S^r in our power shall be wanting on the part of the Government for the carrying on an Armament w^{ch} is of such a vast advantage to his Majestie's Dominions in General and to his Subjects in America in particular; If any thing be omitted by us I desire youl acquaint us with it and your Instruction shall be carefully observed

I beg leave S^r to Assure you

That I am with the utmost Deference

Your most obedient and humble Serv^t

Endorsed: Copy to Col^o GOOCH.

¹ Richard Ward was, on July 1, chosen Governor by the Assembly in place of John Wanton, deceased. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 576.

GOVERNOR WARD TO COLONEL BLAKENEY.

S^r

I was honoured with Yours of 7th July by M^r Howard One of Our Lieutenants and communicated the Same to the Gen^l Assembly of this Colony who have desired me to Acquaint You, that this Government on the Rec^d of his Maj^s Instructions immediately determined to Shew their Zeal on this Occasion and for the more speedy enlisting as large a Number of Men as We possibly could was the first of the British Plantations that gave a Premium for that Purpose.

As We did not know what Number of Men would be wanted or expected from Us and being apprised of the Importance of the Expedition we have raised about 270 which we beg Leave to Observe is vastly more in Proportion than what any of Our Neighbours have or propose to raise and in a few days shall Select out of them the best and most effective Men to constitute the two Companies.

We are also hiring Transports and Purchasing Provisions to carry them to Virginia the Place of Rendezvous; where we Suppose they will enter into his Majesty's Service and be further provided for.

As we shall strictly adhere to these your Instructions So hope you will from Time to Time be pleased to communicate to Us what further may be done on Our Parts, whereby we may distinguish Our Selves to his Majesty on this Occasion and merit your approbation which this Colony will be very proud of.

Permit me, S^r to Assure You that I am with the
Utmost Regard

Your most Obedient and most humble Servant
RICH^d WARD

NEWPORT ON RHODE ISLAND July 17th 1740

Endorsed: Copy Gov^{rs} WARD's Letter to Col^o
BLAKENEY

JOSIAH WILLARD¹ TO GOVERNOR WARD.

Sir

I am commanded by the Governour and Council of this Province to acquaint your Hon^r that a Number of Persons in this Province (and very few of them in Trade) have entered into an Agreement for making and emitting a large Quantity of Bills or Notes of Hand to pass in Commerce in Lieu of Money; and have now proceeded so far as to order the making their Plates; That these Notes have but a Slender Foundation, and no provision made to Secure any certain Value to the Possessor of them; So that if these Bills Should get abroad, and obtain a Credit among Some People for a little time (for it can't be long) there is great Danger that they will be imposed upon to their great Loss and Damage; and therefore the Governour and Council have issued a Proclamation to inform all Persons concerned of their Hazzard in taking these Bills; and as the Correspondence between the Inhabitants of your Government and this may Occasion these Notes getting

¹ Secretary of the Province of Massachusetts.

among your People, The Governour and Council have directed me to advise you of this Affair, that So you may take those Measures you may think proper for Securing your People against being imposed upon by these Notes

I am Yo^r Hon^{rs} most Obedient humble Servant

J. WILLARD

BOSTON, July 17, 1740

Gov^r WARD

ANDREW STONE¹ TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF
RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL 20th July 1740

Gentlemen,

The Lords Justices, appointed for the Administration of the Government during His Majesty's Absence, having thought fit to issue a Proclamation, appointing the Distribution of Prizes taken, and the Bounty for taking Ships of War from the Enemy, agreeable to a late Act of Parliament in that behalf, I send you herewith several printed Copys of the said Proclamation, that you may cause the same to be made publick in His Majesty's Colony under your Government. I am Gentlemen,

Your most Obedient humble Servant

ANDREW STONE

Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island.

¹ A prominent politician, who was at this time under-secretary of state to the Duke of Newcastle, secretary to the Lords Justices, and joint collector of papers in the office of the secretary of state.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR CLARKE¹ TO GOVERNOR WARD.

N : YORK July 21st 1740.

Sir

Coll Gooch on his leaving this place which he did last Wednesday, desired me to acquaint you that he would have the Men who go from your province on the Expedition come to New York, from whence they will go to Virginia under the Convoy of His Majesties Ship the Ludlow Castle, where Coll Gooch will join them, and proceed with them to the place of Rendezvous, he propose's that all the Troops be within the Capes of Virginia before the Midle of September, and he hope's you will take such order therein that the Ships you hire to transport yours may be got ready in time I am Sir

your most obed^t humble Serv^t

GEO [CLARKE]

Gov^r of Rhode Island

COLONEL BLAKENEY TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF
RHODE ISLAND.

NEW YORK 21 July 1740.

Sirs

As the Circumstances possibly may be the same with you, as in the other Provinces, in relation to

¹ The signature is nearly illegible. George Clarke belonged to a Somersetshire family. He was appointed Secretary of the Province of New York in 1703, made a member of the Council in 1715, and Lieutenant-Governor in 1736. In 1743 he was superseded by Clinton, and, two years later, sailed for England with a fortune estimated at £100,000, which he accumulated in America.

the Troops now raising in America, I give you the trouble of this, to communicate to you what I have wrote to them.

You will be pleased to follow his Majestys Instructions to you with regard to the Levies in your Province, and to give the Commissions you receive, as far as they will go, to the first of the Gentlemen, warranted by you to levy, who first shall have compleated their Companies; and if there are any for whom you have not Commissions, to them you are to give Certificates of their having raised their several Companies, and that pursuant to his Majesty's private Instructions to you, you had promised them Commissions, which Certificates they are to show to Lord Cathcart or to the Commander in Chief for the time being, who will have blank Commissions to fill up, and in the meantime you will furnish them with money for their Subsistence Viz to every commissioned or certified Officer from the date of his Commission or Certificate, the Captains at Seven Shillings and Six pence Sterling per day each; the first and Second Lieutenants at three Shillings and Six pence per day each, the Ensigns and Adjutants at three Shillings per day each; the Surgeons Mate at two Shillings per day; and the private men, under Commission or Certificate, according to the inclosed Estimate, for a Captain and his Company, which I now send you in Case of any Mistake in what was formerly sent you.

Of two Companies, compleated here; the Musters have been made up from the 25 day of June last to

the 24 August next both days included; and their Subsistence, for that time, has been issued to their respective Captains accordingly; the Twenty fourth day of the Month being the general Pay-Day of the Army, to which day the Musters are made up every two Months, and to which the Accounts are to be made up and Receipts taken, paying each Months Subsistence per Advance; that is, the Month from the 25th Instant to the 24th of August next inclusive, on the 25th Instant; and so on.

And in order to furnish you with money for such Subsistence, in the most convenient method I can think of, for your Ease and the Advantage of the Service, I have, herewith inclosed, remitted you the four following first Bills of Exchange (the 2^{ds} and 3^{ds} whereof shall be transmitted to you next Post) dated 19th Instant at 30 days sight to your Order on Henry Pelham Esq^r Paymaster General &c amounting to the Sum of £667.3 Sterling Viz:

N ^o 37	1 for	£250
38	1 for	" 150
39	1 for	" 167.3.
40	1 for	100

In all _____ 4 Bills for £667.3, which Sum please to negotiate at the best Exchange you can and apply towards paying the Levies at that Exchange; and what you may further have occasion for as the Companies are compleated, please to advise me and it shall be remitted you. If there is any thing to be rectified, or if any thing occurs wherein my Concur-

rence is needful I beg you will let me know it. I am
Sirs

Your most humble Servant

WILL: BLAKENEY.

To The Hon^{ble} the Governor and Company of
Rhode Island.

GOVERNOR WARD TO COLONEL GOOCH.

S^r

Your Favour of the 8th inst^t with the Inclosed Commissions I have rec^d and am now to inform You that this Colony on the Arrival of his Majesty^s Instructions zealously pursu'd the most probable methods to encourage Persons to inlist in this Expedition and have rais'd about 270 Men out of which we shall select a Sufficient Number to constitute two good Companies.

We are hiring Transports to carry them to Virginia and hope to be there by the Time you appoint and shall draw on Col^l Blakeney agreeably to your Orders.

As we have hitherto been so forward (even beyond any of Our Neighbours) in promoting this Grand Design; So you may depend we shall continue 'till we have discharg'd the whole of Our Duty, for which Purpose we shall expect your Instructions in what you may think further necessary to be done on Our Parts.

Permit me S^r to Assure You that I am with the Utmost deference,

Your most Obed^t humb^l Serv^t

NEWPORT ON RHODE IS^p July 24th 1740.

COLONEL BLAKENEY TO GOVERNOR WARD.

NEW YORK 18 Aug^t 1740

Sir

As I wrote to you and the Company fully on the 21st of last month and had finished my Letter before yours of the 17th of said month came to hand I did not then acknowledge the Receipt of it. At present I give you the trouble of this with regard to a paragraph in your said Letter which says — “ We are “ also hiring Transports and purchasing Provisions “ to carry them to Virginia the Place of Rendezvous, “ where we suppose they will enter into his Majesty’s “ Service and be further provided for ” — Least there should be any mistake in so material a point I now acquaint you that the Troops are lookt upon as entered into His Majesty’s Service immediately on their being duely and regularly enlisted; that Virginia is named a place of Rendezvous where the Troops from the different Colonies in America are to meet in order to proceed together under Convoy to the general Rendezvous of the Forces from Great Britain, in Jamaica, or wherever else His Majesty shall think proper to appoint it; and that every Province is to furnish Transports and Provisions for their respective Numbers till such time as they join the Forces at that general Rendezvous in the West Indies. If there is any thing that wants further Explanation, please to let me know. I am with all regard Sir

Your most humble Servant

WILL: BLAKENEY.

To The Hon^{ble} RICHARD WARD Esq^r
Governor of Rhode Island at Newport

JOHN COURAUD¹ TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF
RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL August 22^d 1740

Gentlemen,

I herewith inclose an Additional Instruction² signed by the Lords Justices, for effectually putting in Execution an Act passed in the Sixth year of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, Intituled, *An Act for ascertaining the Rates of Foreign Coins in her Majesty's Plantations in America*; You will please to take [note] that the said Instructions be duly complied with; I am Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant

JOHN COURAUD

Governor and Company of Rhode Island.

THE LORDS JUSTICES TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF
RHODE ISLAND.³

Instructions to the Governor and Company of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in New England in America, for the better observation of the Act of the 6th of Queen Anne, for ascertaining the Rates of foreign Coins in America. Given at Whitehall, the Twenty first Day of August 1740. In the Fourteenth Year of His Majesty's Reign.

Whereas An Act of Parliament was passed in the sixth Year of Her late Majesty Queen Anne, Entituled, *An Act for ascertaining the Rates of foreign Coins in her Majesty's Plantations in America*; And whereas Complaints have been made, that the said Act has not been observed as it ought to have

¹ Secretary to the Lords Justices.

² See the following document.

³ Enclosed in the preceding letter.

been in many of His Majesty's Colonies and Plantations in America, by means whereof many indirect Practices have grown up, and various and illegal Currencies have been introduced in several of the said Colonies and Plantations, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said Act, and to the Prejudice of the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects, in Consequence of which Complaints, An humble Address was presented the last Sessions, by the House of Commons to his Majesty, " That he would be graciously " pleased to require and command the respective " Governors of his Colonies and Plantations in America, effectually to observe the said Act of the sixth " of Queen Anne "; It is therefore His Majesty's Royal Will and Pleasure, and you are hereby strictly required and commanded to take the most effectual care for the future, That the said Act be punctually and *bonâ fide* observed and put in Execution, according to the true intent and meaning thereof. And to the end that His Majesty's commands herein may be fully made known to all His Subjects within your Government, and that none of them may pretend Ignorance thereof You are hereby further required and commanded to publish this Instruction in such manner as may best answer his Majesty's gracious Intentions herein signified.

WILMINGTON, P.

JO. CART.

HERVEY. C. P. S.

DORSET

GRAFTON

RICHMOND, LENNOX AND AUBIGNY.

BOLTON.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 6 mo. the 25th 1740*Gov^r. Wanton*

I have recd none of thy favours of late — my last to thee was of the 17th Ult. per Cap^t Perkins via Boston to w^{ch} I refer.

This Serves now to bring thee a Copy of the Royal Commission¹ for fixing the Boundary line between our Colony and the Massach^{ts} and hope it will not be long before the Original Passes the Seal and is compleated, when it is I shall forward it to thee

In my last I sent thee my acco^t wth the Colony. the Ball. thereon in their favour was £48. 12. 4 — but then no part of the charge of this Commission was set down: and I have lately paid my Solicitor part of the money towards it since sending away my acco^t. And it is very likely next Sessions of Parliam^t the Affair of the State of the Paper Currency in the Plantations will come under consideration there will be necessity of money to be expended in my appearing in behalf of the Colony to vindicate their Priviledges I must intreat their Supplying me accordingly and I shall do the best I can, desiring also in the mean time thou wouldst furnish me with Instructions thereabout: I herewith send thee a Copy of an Instruction prepared to send over to the Kings Governors in generall for their Information.

I w^d observe that after this dra^t of the Commission for Settling the Line, it was considered by the

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 586, 587, for Instructions to the Commissioners, and the Royal Commission.

L^{ds} Committee of Council to prevent doubts and ambiguities arising from the uncertain date of the first Tuesday of March 174⁰₁₁: they have varied it, And made the first Meeting to be on the first Tuesday in April 1741.

here are also sent thee several Copys I obtained from the Council Office relating to Charter Governments. the Original of L^{ds} Justices Order in Council¹ goes by Cap^t Hall, w^{ch} was sent only (as I apprehend) in pursuance of the Vote of the House of Commons — there is among these a Copy of the L^{ds} Justices Approbation of the L^{ds} Committees Report about the Affair of Mason² &c. of Connecticut w^{ch} I thought woud not be amiss to send thee that thou might see how that Affair stood here — and I suppose in consequence of this a New Commissⁿ will Issue

LOND^o 7ber the 3^d 1740

To Deputy Gov^r. Ward

Since my writing the foregoing I understand that Governor Wanton is deceased altho' I have no letter of it yet come to my hand, and it being about the Colonys Affairs I judgd it my duty now to address to thee, who am

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

TO RICHARD WARD Esq

Governour of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations

¹ This document is in the manuscript volume of Orders of the King in Council, at the State House.

² See note on p. 125.

COLONEL BLAKENEY TO GOVERNOR WARD.

NEW YORK 25 Aug^t 1740*Sir*

I am favoured with yours of the 15th Inst: acknowledging the receipt of mine of the 21st and 22^d of July with the Bill for £667.3 Sterling; likewise mentioning that your Transports would be at New York in a fortnight. I am humbly of opinion that you ought to wait the Motion of the Troops from New England that we may all proceed together. I am Sir

Your most humble Servant

WILL: BLAKENEY

To the Hon^{ble} RICH^d WARD Esq^r

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 7ber: the 17th: 1740*Governour Ward*

I have been informed that it hath pleased Divine Providence lately to remove out of this life our Worthy Friend Governour Wanton, the loss of whom will doubtless Sensibly affect the people of the Colony in a general Manner, alltho' I had not much Personal Acquaintance with him, I took him to be a Gentleman liberally endued with Wisdom and Capacity to Sustain that honourable post with Reputation both to himself and the Government.

And now as the choise of his Successor in the Governm^t has fallen on thee I hold it my duty to

advise thee from time to time of such Occurances here which may any ways affect the Colony as to the Priviledges and Rights they enjoy by their Charter, and I trust my utmost Endeavours shall not be wanting to prevent if possible any attempts to their Prejudice, which has been my care hitherto, during the time of my being the Colonys Agent, as I hope I have many Witnesses there who wo^d do me the justice to acknowledge.

We have at length got out the Royal Commission under the Great Seal¹ appointing Commiss^{rs} to Settle the Boundary line between the Colony and the Province of the Massach^{ts} which I now send thee in a Box by our Friend Cap^t Wanton, a passenger with Cap^t Hall to Boston, which I wish safe to thy hands. The acco^t of the charge of it I shall send hereafter — it has been a pretty while in getting it through and compleated, but I do assure thee there was no time that I know off lost in doing it since I reced the Colonys Order for taking it out: there being the usual form of passing through several Offices w^{ch} with Orders and References unavoidably attending the Solicitation that we could no ways help it. there comes also in the Box with the Commission 15 Copys thereof, One to be delivered to each of the Commissioners, which thou wilt please to take the necessary care about.

Its thought the King will return from Hannover pretty soon and that the Parliament will sit some time in Nov^r next, against which time I hope I shall have

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV, 587.

some Instructions relating to the Affair of Paper Money &c.

As to Publick News the Spanish Fleet of abo^t 17 Men of War have got out of Ferrol harbour abo^t 2 months since and gone as its judgd for the West Indies and the French Brest Squadron gone to joyn them of abo^t 14 Ships or upwards, so that they have got the Start of our Fleet, who still lyes wind bound at S^t Helens.

Lord Cathcart when he Sails will now have near 30 Men of War with him bound (as they say) to Jamaica. The Touloun Squadron of 14 Sail are not gone out of the Straits yet, but will probably stay there to assist the Spaniards.

The Apparent behaviour of the French in joyn-
ing the Span^{ds} with their Ships of War, and their
preparation of late for fortifying Dunkirk again, is
an Infraction of the Treaty of Utrecht, and seems to
portend a War with them, but it is not yet proclaimd,
nor any hostilitys committed. with due respects to
thy self and the Gentlemen of the Council and House
of Representatives I remain

Thy ffaithfull Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

The other News papers I send in a packet for
thee by it self

To RICHARD WARD Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations.

GOVERNOR WARD TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

[Autumn of 1740.]

May it please Your Grace,

His Majesty's Instructions respecting the raising of Levies to go on an Expedition against the Spaniards with Your Grace's Recommendation came Safe to Our Hands, upon which this Colony determined to shew their Zeal for the Service and as a further Encouragement to what his Majesty was pleased to give was the first of the Plantations that offered a Premium to Soldiers to enlist; by which means we raised two very good Companies and kept them billeted out at the Governments Charge from the Month of May to the 13 of September last¹ at which Time they sail'd from hence in two suitable Vessels which we hired to transport them to the Place of Genl Rendezvous, having first furnish'd them with Provisions and all other Necessaries for the Design, the names of the officers over these Companies we now take Liberty to present to Your Grace

Permit Us, S^t, to assure you that as we esteem it a Singular Happiness to be under your Inspection So none shall more cheerfully receive nor more readily execute whatever Your Grace Shall be pleased to recommend than this Colony hoping that our Conduct in this and all Other Respects will be acceptable to Our Sovereign and your Graces Approbation which we shall esteem as the greatest Honour that can be done to, May it please Your Grace,

Your Grace's most Obed^t and most humble Serv^t

Endorsed: To His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

¹ September, 1740. See Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 126.

ANDREW STONE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL 2^d October 1740.

Gentlemen,

Their Ex^{cys} the Lords Justices to whom His Majesty has entrusted the Administration of the Government, during His Absence, having been informed, that great Quantitys of Provisions have been exported from several of His Majesty's Colonys in North America for the Use of foreign Colonys, which Practise may, in the present Conjunction, be highly prejudicial to His Majesty's Service; Their Ex^{cys} have commanded me to signify to You their Directions, that you should prevent, as far as possible, the Exportation of any Provisions from the Colony under your Government to any foreign Colony whatever; And in order thereto, that you should cause all Ships laden with Provisions, and not in His Majesty's Service, that shall sail from any of the Ports within your Government, to give sufficient Security to land the said Provisions in some part of His Majesty's Dominions.

I am Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant

ANDREW STONE.

Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island

ADMIRAL VERNON TO GOVERNOR WARD.

PORT ROYAL JAMAICA 13th November 1740

Sir

An Opportunity offering by one of our Contractors Mr Tickell's Vessels bound to New York, I could not slip the same of informing You, of the Arrival in these Seas not only of the large Squadron of twelve Spanish Men of War from 80 to 60 Guns, but likewise of two as large Squadrons of French Ships from Brest and Toulon. I have Advice of as large Reinforcements being under Orders for coming to join me. So that, in all human Probability the Fate of this War is drawing to a Crisis, and Decision in these Seas. And as any Misfortune befalling us might be fatal to our Possessions in these Seas; and as I think these Squadrons will rely on being supply'd with Provisions from Your Parts, either immediately from the French Ports, before we may come to a Rupture with them, or from Statia and Curascoa afterwards, I can't omit recommending^{*} it to You, as most material for His Maj^s Service, to have no One permitted, at this Critical Juncture, to clear out from Your Government, without sufficient Security given, not to land his Provisions at any French or Dutch Settlement, or any other but His Maj^s Collonies, where all they can raise will probably be wanted for the Subsistance of His Maj^s Troops.

As the Publick Service sufficiently bespeaks Your Regard in this particular, I can in no sort doubt of

Your exerting Your utmost Zeal in it, for His Maj:
Service.

I am Sir

Your most obedient humble Servant

E. VERNON

The Hono^{ble} RICHARD WARD Esq^r

GOVERNOR WARD TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

S^r.

Your favour of the 17th September last by Cap^t Hall with yours of the 19th with the News Letters accompanying it, are come safe to Hand but the Commission with the Copys, being in Cap^t Wantons Chest; are not come to Hand; his dyin on Ship board with the small Pox has caused a Stoppage of every Thing aboard the Ship for the Present. If any thing further be laid before the Parliament this Sessions about our paper Currency You will acquaint this Government immediately of it, and endeavour to get Leave that the Government may be heard on it. In the present Circumstances of the New England Colonys It is impossible this Government separate from the rest can come up to the Act of the 6th of Queen Ann¹ ascertaining the Rates of foreign Coins, our European trade is almost wholly thro the Hands of the Boston Merch^s and unless that Government will emit their Bills at that Value it will [be] impracticable for this Colony to do it. Connecticut has emitted a Bank of £30000 in paper at 8s. per

¹ See letter of August 22, 1740.

oz which is as good as ever Silver passed amongst us upwards of thirty Years past. A Committee¹ appointed by this Colony are preparing a Representation of our several Emissions of paper Currency and a Draught of the Laws now in force; pursuant to his Majestys Order which will be compleated in a few Months Time; acquaint the Lords Commissioners with it. The Government has Honrd me with the Part of Gov^r for this Year. as for your Acc^{ts} how they stand I know not I shall during my Administration take such Care of the publick affairs that nothing shall be wanting on the Governments Part to enable You to carry them on with Satisfaction Your favour of the Duplicate with your Newspaper come to Hand as I was concluding this Letter I acknowledge your favour and remain S^r

Your humble Serv^t

RICH^d WARD

NEWPORT Nov^r 20th 1740

To M^r RICH^d PARTRIDGE Merch^t in London

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY
OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL Dec^r 4th 1740

Gentlemen,

His Majesty having received an Account of what has been done in the several Provinces of North America, with regard to the raising a Body of Men

¹ A letter from the Board of Trade of August 19, 1740, on the subject, may be found in the *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 7, and the committee above referred to was appointed by the Assembly in October, 1740. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 584.

to Serve under the Command of the Lord Cathcart, and transporting them to Jamaica, by which it appears, that there is such a Spirit among His Majesty's Subjects in those Provinces, that even a greater Number of Men might have been raised for this Service than has yet been done; And as it is probable, that Recruits will be wanted for the Forces under Lord Cathcart's Command, or even that Lord Cathcart may write to have a greater Number of Troops from North America, than are at present sent to him; His Majesty has commanded me to acquaint You, that if My Lord Cathcart should think proper to send to You for any Number of Men for Recruits, or for any other Service, you should endeavour to raise them accordingly, and take Care, that they be transported to such Place, and at such Time as Lord Cathcart shall appoint; And that all such Persons as shall enlist, in His Majesty's Service, on any such Occasion, should have the same allowance of Pay and Subsistance, Cloaths and Arms, as was given to the Men, that were first raised; And it is His Majesty's Pleasure, that you should transmit an exact Account of the Number of effective Men, that have been already raised within your Government, as also of Those, that shall be farther raised in consequence of any Application to You for that purpose by My Lord Cathcart, as is abovementioned.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Gov: and Company of Rhode Island.

GOVERNOR WARD TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

S^r

Yours of the 21st of November last came to hand the 16th Current with your solicitors Bill, and your Acc^t stated with the Colony. Ballance in your favour £159.11.4 which I shall lay before the Assembly at their next sessions, and doubt not of their remitting you the Ballance of your Acc^t and a further supply to enable you to prosecute the Affairs of the Government with Vigor.¹

You'l herewith receive inclosed a representation of our several Emissions of paper Currency to be laid before the board of Trade for the plantations which You are to lay before them as soon as They come to hand.² A Copy whereof You'l herewith receive open, which will throly furnish You with the reasons that induced the Colony to make those Emissions; and enable you to reply to all that shall be said against Them

Your publick prints came safe to hand for which I thank You I am S^r

Your hearty friend

NEWPORT Feb: 26th 1743.

To M^r RICH^d PARTRIDGE Merch^t
in London

¹ No notice of any such remittance appears in the Assembly records for 1741.

² For Governor Ward's Report upon the paper money of Rhode Island, see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 8.

THE LORDS OF TRADE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY
OF RHODE ISLAND.WHITEHALL, April 17th 1741.*Gentlemen,*

Two Acts having been pass'd this Sessions of Parliament, wherein the British Plantations are concerned, Viz.

An Act to prohibit for a time therein limited the Exportation of Corn, Grain (Rice excepted) Meal, Malt, Flour, Bread, Biscuit Starch, Beef, Pork and Bacon.

An Act for licensing the Importation of Victual from Ireland, and other Parts beyond the Seas into Scotland, in Time of Dearth and Scarcity.

We have thought fit to send you printed Copies of them for your Information and Government in the several Matters therein contained. So we bid you heartily farewell, and are

Your very loving Friends and humble Servants,

JA. BRUDENELL

EDW. ASHE

M. BLADEN

R. PLUMER

A CROFT

Hon^{ble} Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island.

E. WARNER, R. GIBBS, AND J. BOWEN TO GOVERNOR WARD.

May 15th A D 1741

May it please Your Honour after Due Regards presented, These lines may Inform Your Honour That Pursuant to The Act of Assembly¹ we have waited upon Mr Richard Thornton in order to Receive the Books Papers and Seal, that were in his Custody as late Clerk of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace in order to Deliver the Same to Stephen Hopkins Esq the Present Clerk of the S^d Courts, but the S^d Thornton absolutely Refused to Deliver Either Books Papers or Seal unless we or some other Person or Persons would pay or Engage to pay to him the sum of fifty pounds, we therefore Entreat your Honour to Consider the bad Consequence of this Extraordinary proceeding of Mr Thornton and to Take proper Method to Redress this great Injury be Speedily Recovering the S^d Books Papers and Seal out of his hands in order to Deliver the Same to the present Clerk, This is what offers with great Respect from your Honours very

humble Serv^{ts}

EZEKIEL WARNER

ROBERT GIBBS

JABEZ BOWEN

¹ Two committees were appointed in May, 1741. One was to ascertain if the security given by Thornton for the funds of the colony in his hands was sufficient. The other was to receive from him the county records, seal, and papers, as stated above. The votes of Assembly are upon the manuscript records, but are among the many omissions in Mr. Bartlett's edition.

DANIEL JENCKS, STEPHEN HOPKINS, AND OTHERS TO
GOVERNOR WARD.

PROVIDENCE May 16th 1741

Hono^d Sir

This waits on you with a Relation of the proceedings of M^r Richard Thornton late Clerk of this County Your Hon^r will be informed by the Committees Letter that pursuant to the Order of the Assembly they waited on M^r Thornton in order to Receive the Seal Books Papers &c^a in his hands and deliver them to the present Clerk. And of his Refusal.¹ And we being informed thereof by the said Comm^{tee} met Together to Endeavour to Recover our Records out of his Hands but after all the persuasions we were able to use, to our surprise were answered that he would not deliver them and that he would not be flattered nor Threatened into a Compliance, whereupon this Court made an order that he should immediately deliver up to the s^d Records &c^a to the s^d Comm^{tee} and if he Refused they would send a Officer to take them, which order was served upon him but he still continued obstinate in his Refusal. upon which this Court granted forth a Warrant to the Sheriff to go to the s^d Thorntons and take the Records &c and deliver them to the s^d Com^{tee} by virtue of which the Sheriff went to the s^d Thorntons House Attended by the Com^{tee} for that purpose and Demanded the s^d Records of the s^d Thorntons Wife but she refused to deliver them the sheriff informed that he must search for them and desired

¹ See the preceding letter.

her to Open the doors which she did and he searched the Rooms where the Records Used to be Kept but could not find any of the Books of Records or the County Seal but only some files and loose papers which not being the Things that were principally wanted, the sheriff left them as he found them. and thuse finding ourselves disappointed in all our Endeavours to Recover our Records which at this Time there is absolute necessity should be in the Clerks Hands: or private persons as well as the Govern^t will be put to the utmost dificulty, and Loss. And we Know of no way left but to apply our selves to Your Honour for Remedy in this Very Extraordinary Case, hoping that the most Effectual Methods may be taken to prevent so Irreparable a Loss as that of all our County Records which we take the freedom to say we are in fear may soon be if the[y] are not already Destroyed. We beg to be excused for giving your Honour this Trouble and Remain with due Respects

Your Honors Most Humble Servants

DANIEL JENCKES

JOHN RICE: JN^R

ROBERT GIBBS

WILLIAM HOLDEN

P S. Sir by order of the Judges after the above Letter was wrote I Waited on M^r Thornton and read the same to him and Desired him to Comply and prevent farther Trouble but Her^d the same flatt denial as had been given to the Com^{tee} and Judges

before so that he seems to be Resolved not to deliver the Records on any Terms at all .

STEPHEN HOPKINS

To the Honble RICHARD WARD Esq^r
Gov^r of The Colony of Rhode Island

GOVERNOR WARD TO THE SHERIFF OF PROVIDENCE COUNTY.¹

Colony of Rhode Is^d

George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c

To the Sheriff of Our County of Newport Greeting especially appointed for the Service of this Precept.²

Whereas, Complaint hath been made unto Us the Subscribers by Ezekiel Warner, Robert Gibbs and Jabez Bowen all of Providence in the County of Providence Esq^{rs} That Richard Thornton of s^d Providence Esq^r the late Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace establish'd in the s^d County of Providence hath refused to deliver the Records, Papers and Seal of s^d Courts to the Complainants (who are a Committee appointed by the Gen^l Assembly to receive the same and them to deliver to Stephen Hopkins Esq^r the present Clerk of s^d Courts) and that the s^d Richard Thornton

¹ See letters of May 15 and 16, 1741.

² A precept is, in English law, a mandate in writing, issued, pursuant to law, by an administrative officer.

at Providence afores^d hath removed and doth feloniously conceal and secrete s^d Records; Papers and Seal from whence there is a great Suspicion that He the s^d Richard Thornton hath embezled and utterly destroy'd the s^d Records, Papers and Seal

These are therefore in his said Maj^s Name to command You upon Sight hereof to make diligent Search for the s^d Richard Thornton and him if to be found within this Colony to apprehend and bring forthwith before the Superior Court of Judicature Court of Assize and Gen^l Goal delivery now sitting at Newport within and for the Colony afores^d that He may be examin'd respecting the afores^d Complaint and be further dealt with as the Law directs. And if the s^d Richard Thornton shall be found in Prison for Debt, then the Sheriff who has the Care of him as a Prisoner is hereby ordered on Sight of this Precept to deliver him the s^d Richard Thornton in order that He may be convey'd to the Superior Court to be examined and dealt with as afores^d And upon Your receiving the s^d Richard Thornton into your Custody You are commanded to take all imaginable Care to prevent his Escape from the Hands of Justice; And You are further Required to make diligent Search for the said Records, Papers and Seal in any suspected Places within this Colony and if need be You are hereby authorised to take especial Aid and Assistance with You and to break open any Locks or doors that may hinder your searching for the same, and if you should find the s^d Records, Papers or Seal or any of them, then You are to deliver the same to the afores^d Complainers. Hereof fail not and make

Return of this Precept with your doings. Given under our hands and Seals in Newport afores^d May 20th 1741

RICH^d WARD Gov^r
W^m GREENE D Gov^r
P. BOURS Assist^t

Endorsed: COLONY OF RHODE-ISLAND
May 22^d 1741

By Virtue of this Precept, I have made diligent Search after the within Mentioned Richard Thornton, and found him in Goal in the County of Providence, on a Civil Action, there committed by the Sheriff of the s^d County, and was by the s^d Sheriff delivered to my Custody.

THO^s POTTER Sher.

THE HOUSE OF MAGISTRATES TO THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES.

Oct^r 29th 1741.

To the House of Deputies.

Gent^{rs}

Finding by the Return from the Town of Providence that M^r Richard Thornton¹ is chosen One of the Deputys for that Town to represent them in this General Assembly, do not think proper to give him his Engagement to that office until we have the

¹ See letters of May 15 and 16, and sheriff's precept of May 20. In June, the Assembly voted that since Thornton had in his possession £2800, old tenor, belonging to the colony, a committee be appointed to demand security therefor. In August, the colony brought action against Thornton for the costs of the search for the court records described in the letters cited above. Bartlett's edition of the *Records* omits the entire August session.

Opinion of Your House for the following Reasons, vizt. For secreting and refusing to deliver the Records of the Inferior Court of Common Pleas and General Sessions of the Peace held in the County of Providence to a Committee appointed by the General Assembly to receive the Same; for not discharging his Trust as a Committee Man for that Town in the Year 1738— and not yet delivering to the Grand Committee the Tenth Bonds for upwards of two thousand pounds.

Pass'd per ord^r

JA MARTIN Secretary.

To the House of Mag^{ts}

Gen^l

This House are of Opinion that Mr Rich^d Thornton is qualified for a Member of this House and pray he may be Engaged.

Voted and past

per Order

J LYNDON Clerk

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 3^d mo. or May the 15th 1741

Governor Ward

Thine of the 23 feb^y last I have received per Cap^t Orrocks together with a packet for the Lords of Trade containing a Representation of the State of the Colony with respect to yo^r paper currency¹ which I deliverd the day after it came to my hands and

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 8.

hope it may be Satisfactory, but at Present that Board is adjourn'd for Some time Since the dissolution of the Parliam^t and as I suppose most of them gone down into the Country about their Elections; nothing at all was done as I have already advised thee at the last Sessions of Parliam^t with regard to Publick Bills of Credit, but an Act has been pass'd for Suppressing Banks Erected for Issuing Bills or Notes by any Companys, agreeable to the Bill herewith sent thee, the printed part was as it stood when first it was bro^t into the House and the written part of it are the amendm^{ts} which together now is past into a Law.

herewith I also Send my acco^t with the Colony the Ballance whereof in my favour is £213 : 15 : 0 St^r which I hope will be remitted me in due time. with a further Supply to enable me to prosecute the Affairs of the Governm^t and w^{ch} will be very acceptable to me. the War expected with France keeps off hitherto, and no great likelihood of it at present. We are dayly in Expectation now of News from our Fleet in the West Indies

The King is gone to Hannover and arrivd Safe in Holl^d about a week Since for the rest I refer to the News papers herewith sent and remain with due respects

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To Governour Ward.

GOVERNOR WARD TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

NEWPORT June the 24th 1741

May it please your Grace

His Majesty's orders for Levying a Number of Men on an expedition against the Spaniards came safe to hand the latter End of April and was laid before the Assembly the first Wednesday of May¹ who readily and chearfully complied therewith and shewed their Zeal for his Majestys Service in their giving a Bounty to each Person enlisting some considerable time before any of the other Governments, which forwarded Us so much more than our Neighbours that Wee soon filled up two Companys of one hundred Men each pursuant to his Majestys direction (before the Massachusets tho They are ten times as Numerous as Wee) who sailed the 13th of Sep^r following for New. York agreeable to the Instructions I rec^d from the honorable Col^o Gooch in two good Topsail Vessels hired and fitted out with Provisions and all things necessary for their Transportation to the general Rendezvouz at the Colonys charge

The Company raised on Rhode. Island was commanded by

Samuel Dun Cap^t

Walter Chaloner 2nd Lieu^t

Joseph Cook Ensign

The officers of the Company raised on the mainland are

William Hopkins Cap^t

¹ May, 1740, is meant. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, IV. 571.

Thomas Brenton 2nd Lieu^t

W^m Smith Ensign

With great Submission S^r I assure you I esteem it a singular happiness this Colony is under your inspection; and none shall more chearfully receive nor more readily observe his Maj^{ty}'s orders at all times communicated by your Grace to us. Hoping that our Conduct in this as well as in all others may be accepted by his Majesty and approved by your Grace which this Government shall esteem the greatest honour can be done them

May it please your Grace I am With the most profound Respect

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

R. WARD

Endorsed: Copy of Letter To his Grace the Duke of Newcastle Principle Secretary of State

GOVERNOR WARD TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWP^r July 15th 1741

S^r

Yours of the 15th May with your Acc^t stated came to hand with two Acts of Parliament for this Colony by Cap^t Evers. I laid your former bill of M^r Paris's and your Acc^t as then stated before our Assembly in May who rose without doing any thing on it; in their June sessions¹ They ordered a Committee to

¹ In the June sessions of 1741, as entered upon the original records at the State House, there is provision made "that the Sum of One hundred and Fifty Pounds Ster-

remit You £150 Sterling which I suppose You'll receive ere this comes to hand. I moved the lower house to make You a larger remittance but They declined it that time; by your Acc^t stated 15th of May there is £213.15. due to ballance in your favour our Assembly will set in August I shall lay your Acc^t before Them¹ and doubt not but They will remit You the full ballance and advance a considerable Sum to enable You to carry on our Affairs I shall press it forwards to the utmost of my power. you are strenuously to oppose any attempt that may be made agst our striking off any more bills of Credit without the Royal Assent. The Commissioners for setting the boundaries between the two Colonys have made a Judgment² in our favour for the Gore; and for three miles N.E. from the Mouth of Providence river and from Bristol harbour till They bring us over the Neck to the Eastern branch and then crossed the Bay and then gave us a p^s of Land southward to the Sea of three miles in wedth.

I am S^r With Respect

Your obedient humble Servant

ling be remitted to our Agent in London in the Kingdom of Great Britain for the Use of the Colony," and a committee was appointed "to draw the Same out of the General Treasury, and procure Gold, Silver, or Bills of Exchange, and send the Same to our said Agent by the first good Oportunity."

¹ No record appears of any further emission in the August session.

² See p. xx of the *Introduction*. Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 132, 133, gives an account of the judgment of the commission.

GENERAL WENTWORTH TO GOVERNOR WARD.¹FROM THE CAMP ON THE RIVER HUMBER
IN THE ISLAND CUBAAug^t 12th 1741.*Sir,*

His Majesty having directed me to use my best Endeavours to recruit his forces under my Command, in his Colonies in North America, I have appointed Cap^t Hopkins² to repair for that end to your province, not doubting of your giving him all the assistance in your power, to Levy soldiers not only for Compleating Col^o Gooch's Regiment, but if practicable to raise a greater Number, either to fill up vacancies in the two old corps, and in the Marines, or to form another Battalion, as it shall be found best for his Majesties Service.

As I have here no means of supplying the recruiting Officers with money, You will, Sir, be pleas'd to give the aforesaid Captain Credit for such sums, as may be wanted for that service, and to draw upon the Right Hon^{ble} Henry Pelham Esq^r³ the Paymaster General for the said usd. As to the particular sums to be paid to the said Recruiting Officer, I Refer you to his Instructions which he will lay before you.

All such as shall Inlist themselves on this occasion, will be Intitled to the Advantages offered by his Majesty, in his Instructions on the first raising Col^o [Gooch's] Regiment. I don't doubt, Sir, but

¹ Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 30.

² Captain William Hopkins, of Providence.

³ A prominent politician, nephew of the Duke of Newcastle, and a supporter of the Walpole administration; later, chancellor of the exchequer and prime minister.

you will take the proper measures for their being transported hither, to support which Charge I flatter myself the respective Provinces will make a provision, as all his Majesties dominions in the West Indies are particularly Interested in the Success of this Expedition.

I am, S^r

Your most obedient servant

THO^S WENTWORTH

To the Hon^{ble} RICHARD WARD, Esq^r
Governour of Rhode-Island

GENERAL WENTWORTH'S ORDERS TO CAPTAINS HOPKINS
AND WINSLOW.

To Capt^{ns} Hopkins¹ and Winslow²

You are required without Delay to repair on board the Sea Horse Commanded by Cap^t Allen Who is ordered by Vice Admiral Vernon to conduct You directly to North America.

2^{ndly} You are as soon as You land to repair to such Provinces, as You think the most likely to afford You Recruits, Of which You are to raise as Many as You shall be able with all Expedition.

3^{rdly} You are only to enlist able bodied Men, not exceeding Thirtyfive Years of Age, Nor are You to enlist any Native of Ireland, Except You have undoubted Proof of his being a Protestant, and of a good Character.

¹ See note to preceding letter.

² Doubtless John Winslow of Massachusetts (General Winslow of the Seven Years' War), who led a company of his own raising to Cartagena.

4^{thly} You are to apply to the Governour of the Province, where You propose to raise Men, for Money to enable You to begin Your Recruiting, and may afterwards receive from Him, Four Pounds for each Man You shall have raised, Out of which is to be deducted the Sum, You shall have before received on Account.

5^{thly} As an Encouragement for Gentlemen to assist You in raising Men, I shall reserve Twelve Vacancies of Ensigns Commissions which shall be given to Those, Who shall appear to Me, from a Certificate signed by the Governour of the Province, (where is the Seal of Your recruiting) And by Your Self, to have been the most Active in assisting You in raising Recruits, each Captain employed in raising Men to Certify for Six.

6^{thly} The Recruits are to be subsisted at the Expence of the Recruiting Officer, and He is to stand to all Hazard of Death or Desertion, till They shall be actually embarked, of Which no less than Fifty to be embarked at one Time; After They shall be embarked, They are to be subsisted at the Publick Expence, and any Loss by Death to fall upon the Regiment.

As often as shall be practicable, Accounts are to be sent to the Officer, commanding Col^o Gooche's Regiment, to be laid before the Commander in Chief, of the Number of Men raised, and of what Prospect there may be of raising More.

THO^S WENTWORTH

FROM THE CAMP IN THE ISLE OF CUBA August 12th 1741.

Endorsed : Copy Instructions from Gen^l Wentworth to Cap^t Hopkins, 1741.

GOVERNOR WARD TO GENERAL WENTWORTH.

S^r

Immediately after I had the honor of yours of the 12th Augst per Cap^t Hopkins I called the Assembly and laid your Letter before Them Who most readily and chearfully concur'd in raising what forces we possibly could and accordingly gave orders for advancing such Sums of money as Cap^t Hopkins's occasions might require¹

Beside the advantages Graciously offered by his Majesty we have given a further bounty of five pounds this Currency and a Watch Coat to every Soldier upon their Embarkation in the present expedition by which means we have raised upwards of fifty able-bodied Men and We have sent them in our Colony Sloop at our own charge. I heartily wish their quick and safe Arrival, that They may prove Acceptable to you and that our Conduct in this whole affair may have your Approbation

That the Providence of God may succeed his Majestys just Arms under your present Conduct in every attempt against an unreasonable Enemy is the sincere desire of

S^r

Your most obedi^t and humble Serv^t

R : WARD

¹ See the two preceding documents, and for proceedings of the Assembly, *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 30.

P. S. Cap^t Hopkins and Lieu^t Chaloner have been very diligent and industrious in raising recruits and have given a general Satisfaction

To The Honourable THOMAS WENTWORTH Esq.
Brigadier Gen^l and Commander in Chief of his
majestys Forces In The West Indies.

DANIEL UPDIKE¹ TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

To the Honorable the General Assembly of His Majesty Colony of Rhode Island &c. held [at] Newport within and for said Colony on the first Tuesday of Octob^r A. D. 1741.

I the Subscriber hereby inform the Honorable Assembly that I attended His Majesty Court of Commissioners for Setling the Bounds of the Colony at their Sessions in Providence on the 7th Day of April 1741. And that I again attended said Court about the Twenty eighth Day of said month and continued to attend said Court which Set with small Intermissions 'till June 30th 1741 when final Judgment was given. In the Prosecution of which Business I postponed all other Concerns and gave up the Advantage of Providence Court which Set in said Time That I might be the better able to Serve the Colony. *And I was at the Pains of arguing the Cause in Behalf of the Colony.* Moreover when the said Court of Commissioners Set in Septemb. 1741.

¹ Updike was attorney-general for the colony from 1722 to 1732, and from 1743 to his death, in 1757. He was one of the two attorneys who represented Rhode Island before the Boundary Commission of 1741.

I attended and assisted the rest of the Committee in entering an Appeal to His Majesty in Council. And further before the Setting of said Court I spent considerable Time with others of the Committee in consulting and advising about said Cause, And procured what ancient Papers I cou'd find that would Serve the Cause of the Colony. For all which Time and Service and Expence and Skill I apprehend I reasonably deserve One hundred and fifty Pounds. Which nevertheless is humbly submitted to the Judgment of the Honorable Assembly

DANIEL UPDIKE

Octob^r 8th 1741

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 8^{ber} the 16. 1741

Governour Ward

I have before me thy favours of the 15 July and 22^d August² last and am heartily glad to understand that the Commissioners for settling the Boundaries have determined so well in favour of the Colony,

If that Affair after all sh^d come to be disputed here and the Comm^{rs} Judgm^t appeal'd against I shall do my very utmost with the assistance of my Solicitor and Counsel to Support before the Lords of the Privy Council, not doubting but I shall have Sufficient Instructions for that purpose.

As to the hint thou givest me relating to a Com-

² It was voted to allow Colonel Daniel Updike "the sum of £125" for "his time and service in the above mentioned affair." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 33.

plaint of some of the Massachusetts People agst the Colony touching Paper Money I shall be diligent in my enquiry about it and use my utmost Endearvours therein for the Interest of the Colony, in Supporting their Rights and Privilidges as well before the Kings Ministers as in Parliam^t and shall oppose any attempt that may be made to our prejudice, all which to be sure must necessarily be attended with considerable Expence, and I don't doubt but the Same will be considerd by yo^r Assembly and that I shall be sufficiently furnished with what is necessary. I have lately received a Remittance from Geo: Goulding &c^a of One Hundred and Ninety eight pounds 17/5 Sterl on acco^t of the Colony of Rhode Island and Provid^{ce} Plantations w^{ch} I give their acco^t Cred^t for, and which I gratefully receive with due acknowledgm^{ts}, I observe thy observations in the affair of the above Complaint w^{ch} will be of good use to me in checking any thing of that Nature and shall regard thy hint as to secrecy till I hear further about it, and shall give thee due Notice hereafter, as any proceeding may be had about it. I am with due respects

Thy assured Fr^d

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

No War wth France yet nor any likelyhood of a Peace with Spain the King is expected over from Hannover in 2 or 3 days.

To RICHARD WARD Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations

GENERAL WENTWORTH TO GOVERNOR WARD.

Sir

His Majesty having directed me to use my best Endeavours to recruit his forces under my Command in his Colonys in North America I have appointed Cap Hopkins¹ Lieu^t Chaloner and Lieu^t Smith to repair for that purpose to your province not doubting of your giving them all the assistance in your power to levy Soldiers not only for compleating Coll Goochs Regiment, but if practicable to raise a greater Number either to fill up Vacancys in the two old Corps and in the marines or to form another Battalion as it shall be found best for His majestys Service.

As I have no means of supplying the recruiting officers with money, you will, Sir, be pleased to give the aforesaid Captain, Credit for such Sums as may be wanted for that Service and to draw upon the Right Honourable Henry Pelham Esq^r the Paymaster General for the said use. As to the particular Sums to be paid to the said recruiting officer I refer you to his Instructions which he will lay before you.

All such as will inlist themselves on this occasion will be intituled to the Advantages offered by His Majesty in his Instructions² on the first raising Coll Gooch's Regiment. I dont doubt Sir, but you will take the proper measures for their being transported hither to support which charge I flatter myself the respective provinces will make a provision as all His

¹ See note to letter of August 12, 1741.

² See letter of January 5, 1740.

majestys Dominions in the West Indies are particularly interested in the Success of this Expedition.

I beg leave to assure you, Sir, that such young Gentlemen as shall give their assistance in raising men, and shall be properly recommended, will be provided for in the Vacancys which may happen in Coll Gooch's Regiment. I shall Sir have a more particular regard to your friends being I am S^r,

Your most obedient humble Serv^t

THO^s WENTWORTH

KINGSTON JAMAICA 2^d february 174 $\frac{1}{2}$

The Honble the Governour of Rhode Island.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 12th mo. the 4. 1741

Governor Ward,

The last I wrote thee was of the 8th of xber, Since which I have recd none of thy favours. all things remain quiet here respecting the Colony.

As to Publick affairs There has been nothing brought into Parliament yet relating to the Plantations, the Sessions began the 1st of xber last wherein pretty much of their time has been spent in settling the Controverted Elections, and some Endeavours used to Embarrass and distress the Ministry; those in the Opposition to them were for having the State of the War and the Management of it retrospected and examind into by a Comittee of 21 Members to be elected by balloting which occasiond warm and long debates, and upon a division of the House it

was rejected in favour of the Court by a Majority of 3. there being 508. Members Present in the whole, a greater Number than ever I knew together before.

Our Merchants complain heavily of their losses by the Spaniards which indeed has been very great, for that upw^{ds} of 335. Ships and Vessels have been taken since the present War began, and now they are applying to Parlm^t for redress for the futre wherein I am apt to think they will succeed, but at present they are at a stop by the Kings coming to the House of Ld^s yesterday and desir^g the Parliam^t to adjourn themselves to the 18th Ins^t which was done accordingly and Last night S^r Rob^t Walpole they say resignd up all his Places to the King which occasiond a Considerable alteration in the Ministry:¹ its said L^d Wilmington will be first Commissioner of the Treasury and Doddington Esq^r Chanl^r of the Excheq^r in his room, L^d Carteret Presid^t of the Council, and the Duke of Argyle reinstated into Offices and favour again, L^d Chesterfield Sec^y of State and L^d Grenard first Comissioner of the Admiralty in the room of S^r C—— W——² but some of these changes must not fully be relyed on for fact till there is a confirmation thereof; during the Recess its very probable the settlement of the Ministry will be fixed and some new measures enterd into respecting the Publick. but some yet doubt very much when there

¹ For two years the popular opposition to Walpole had been steadily increasing, and his majority in the House gradually disappeared during the winter of 1741-42. His resignation took place February 2, 1742.

² Sir Charles Wager, who retired from the Admiralty in March, 1742, and was in December appointed treasurer of the navy. He died in the following May.

are alterations made in the Ministry about the King, whether any of those who have been in the opposition to the late measures will be put into Office. Time will soon manifest it

I am with due respects to thy Self and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

I send thee herewith some News Papers to w^{ch} I refer desiring thy acceptance of them.

GOVERNOR WARD TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.

NEWPORT Feb: 10th 174¹/₂

May it please your Grace

The hon^{ble} Brigadier Wentworth commander in chiefe of his Majesties Land Forces in the West Indies having tho't proper to make application to Several of the Provinces in the British Dominions in North America to raise Recruits for his Majesties army greatly diminished by Sickness and the Events of Warr; and having sent especial directions to this Colony of Rhode Island with proper officers for raising such a Number of men as could be done with conveniency (in Conformity to his Majesties pleasure signified to us by your Grace)¹ I immediately upon receiving his orders called the Assembly together who voted and ordered the raising as many men as the s^d officers could inlist herein without Limitation

¹ See letter of February 2, 1742.

of Number. And further in their great Zeal for his Majesties Service and as an encouragem^t for the more effectual and speedy raising the same Enacted that a Bounty of five Pounds this Currency and a Watch coat (over and above his Majesties bounty) should be given to each effective that should be inlisted in his Majesties service.¹ In consequence whereof the s^d officers have enlisted in this small Colony fifty three Able Men, which embarked and saild from this place the twenty seventh Day of December, in a Vessel built at the expence of the Colony on purpose for the defence of our Coasts and protection of our Trade and is well equipped with a sufficient number of men, Cannon, small Arms, and other warlike Stores to defend her from; or even to attack the Enemies Privateers; the Cap^t has orders To deliver the said Recruits at Cuba or at such other Place as he shall find his Maj^{ty}s Army encamped and altho the Number of these Recruits may appear to your Grace but small yet if it be considered what a small proportion this Colony bears to the neighboring Provinces and the Number of Levys we sent the last year we make no doubt but your Grace will be of Opinion that we have greatly exceeded our Quotas. The Great Expence of this Colony caus'd by the War has laid us under a Necessity of encreasing the quantity of our Paper Currency which causes heavy complaints from some of our neighbours but we humbly hope that when his Majesty is truly informed of our Circumstances and the great Zeal we have shown for his Service we shall meet with

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 30.

his gracious approbation of all our Conduct As also your Graces Patronage for this Colony if any Attempts should be made (by those who envy our happiness) to deprive us [of] our Priviledges. I heartily wish success to his Maj^{ys} Counsels and Arms and that your Grace may long continue in his favour and be an instrument of doing good as well to this Colony as to the rest of his Maj^{ys} dominions.

May it Please your Grace I am, With the greatest Respects

Your most obedient and most humble Servant
R. WARD

Endorsed: To the Duke of Newcastle 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.

GOVERNOR WARD TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT April 21st 1742

S^r

Your fav^{rs} of the 22^d Feb: and 12th March were this day received for which I return you hearty thanks. Herewith you'l receive the Case as it was heard before his Majestys Court of Comissioners and the Judgment they gave thereon respecting the Eastern Boundaries of this Colony towards the Province of the Massachusetts.³ You will observe we have appealed from that Judgment and (if the inclosed state of the Case or Arguments in the Colonys behalf be thought worthy of notice) will communicate Them to the Gentlemen whom you shall employ on our

¹ See p. xx of the *Introduction*.

Part. I doubt not you will puruse this affair with utmost application and if you shall find it necessary for this Colony to make you any further remittances for the carrying on this affair let Them be timely apprised of it that you may be seasonably supplied your steady and diligent pursuit of this appeal will recommend you to the fav^r of the Government who have the Case at heart I am S^r

Your sincere friend

R. WARD

M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE Merch^t In London.

GOVERNOR WARD TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT April 26th 1742

S^r

Doctor Teddeman Hull the bearer hereof being bound for London and wholly a Stranger their and unknown to your Selfe and in order that you may know the Character of the Gentlem I inform you that he is the Son of Cap^t John Hull late of this Colony (under whom S^r Charles Wager was educated)¹ and has the Character of an honest man, he has sustained the part of a Justice of Peace divers Years amongst us and has been several times formerly and latterly a Representative for the Town of James Town; he is a facetious Temper and has a fair Interest in Lands.

I have sent you via Boston a Copy of the Case of

¹ See note on p. 76.

our Eastern Boundaries and the State thereof drawn up by our Council and a Letter To the Duke of New-Castle containing an Acc^t of our Recruits for Gen^l Wentworth, which I hope youl receive Safely: I am S^r

your Assured friend

R. WARD

To M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE Merch^t
In London

THE COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS TO THE GOVERNOR AND
COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

Sir

The Bearer hereof Thomas Lechmere Esq^r¹ being deputed by us pursuant to a Warrant from the Lords Commiss^{rs} of the Treasury to the Surveyor General of the Northern part of the Continent of America in the room of John Peagrum Superceeded. And he having received Instructions from us for the more effectual putting in execution the Laws relating to Trade and Navigation. We desire you will please to be assisting with your Authority to the said Lechmere and the other Officers of the Customs under his Inspection as they shall have occasion to apply to You and that You will Strictly command all Officers and Ministers employd under You to be assisting to them in putting in Execution the Laws against

¹ At one time surveyor of the port of Boston. He married Ann, daughter of Wait Winthrop, of Connecticut, and was the defendant (in behalf of his wife) in the famous case of Winthrop *vs.* Lechmere.

illegal Trade that the Service under our Management may be effectually carried on. We are Sir

Your most humble serv^{ts}

CUSTOM H^o LOND^o 16 May 1742

CHANDLER

J. EVELYN

S ANSON

JOHN HILL

To The Hon^{ble} Gov^r and Company
of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode Island &c
America

GOVERNOR WARD TO THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES.

To the House of Deputies,

Gent^{rs}

This being the Sessions for granting my Salary for the Year past, desire You'l pass a Vote for the Same and likewise to consider of the extraordinary Services and Pains that I have been obliged to transact in the Year past of which You are not unacquainted with, and therefore expect You'l allow me a reasonable Compensation, and pass a Vote to enable me to draw both out of the General Treasury.¹

I am Gentⁿ

Your faithful and Assured Friend and humble Serv^t

RICH^d WARD

June 23^d 1742

To the House of Mag^{ts}

¹ The Assembly voted that the sum of £350 be paid the governor "for his last Years Salary and extraordinary Services." See the manuscript records for June 21, 1742.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 5th mo: or July 14. 1742*Gov^r. Ward*

My last to thee was of the 8th Ins^t Via New York of which I Send thee a Copy. My Solicitor has Since that as he acquaints me read over the whole Case and Record of the Com^{rs} But for want of the Plan (which is not Sent me with the Papers) he cannot make any usefull application: Enquiry hath been made Both at The Council Office and Board of Trade but no Copys of the Record nor yet of the Plan is Sent in thither. However as the Case is Circumstanced our Petⁿ of Appeal is drawn up, Engrost and ready to present against next Council day that we may get the Start of our Antagonists (as theirs is not yet Lodged) which we apprehend wo^d be an Advantage to us in haveing the Privilidge of Reply at the Hearing by our Counsel.

Altho' we can present our Petⁿ of Appeal, yet we Cannot pretend to bring it forw^d to a hear^s nor Scarse to prepare for itt, with out a Plan, the Case being very long and obscure as it is, which would be illustrated by the Plan, and therefore pray Send it me as Soon as possible, and mark the Copy of itt how we are to Claim the Boundaries for if the Original Shoud be Sent over to the Masachusetts Agent and be in his Custody the Addition to it of a Word, or a line or Even a Mark may hurt our Cause, and we have no possibility of Checking it here; the Com^{rs} I understand ordered all the Original papers to be

deposited in the Sec^{ys} Office at N:Y:¹ and what is wanting may be had there if the Colony has 'em not already

Att the Same time please to Send me over also the Printed and Manuscript Book ² in 1632, 1634, 1646, 1652, 1674, 1677 (if it can be) which the Massach^{ts} offered, but which the Com^{rs} rejected, because our Sol^r thinks the Masach^{ts} will try here to get them Received, for perhaps the Lords may be willing to Receive all the Light they Can have and we ought to be acquainted before hand of what it is the Masach^{ts} May have to offer against Us, and we Shall in the meantime Endeavour to keep off the Hearing till I hear from thee in Answer Hereto.

Since writing the foregoing our Petⁿ of Appeal being ready I have got a Copy of it made out which I Send thee herewith.

16th ditto.

The King Came to the House of Lords Yesterday and put an End of the Sessions of Parliament: the Speech he made on that Occasion I Send thee in the inclosed Print: no War with France Yett,

I am with Respects Thy assured Friend

R^p PARTRIDGE

23 ditto

I send thee some Prints per this Convey^a to T: Hutchinson Esq^r of Boston to forward to thee To Governor WARD.

¹ The reference is to the boundary commission of 1741, by whose order the records of the court were deposited there. Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II, 133.

² Probably the records of the work of former commissions dealing with the disputes with Plymouth, Massachusetts, and Connecticut over the various claims to the Narragansett country. Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, I. See *Index*.

GENERAL WENTWORTH TO CAPTAIN HOPKINS.¹KINGSTON JAMA Octo^r 8th 1742*Sr*

As His Majestie has been pleased to put an End to the Expedition,² And to Order me to reduce Col^o Gooch's Regiment, And to send them to the Northern Colonys, I take this first Oportunity of Signifying to you, that it is his Majesties Pleasure that you put an End to your Recruiting, and that you do without delay after this Letter shall reach you, discharge such Men as you may have raised for the Service of the said Regiment.

And you are hereby directed to draw out your Recruiting Accounts, and send them forthwith to Col^o Gooch in Virginia, desiring him to send them by the first Oportunity to Cap^t Alexander Wilson I am, S^r

Your most humble Serv^tTHO^s WENTWORTH

To Cap^t WILLIAM HOPKINS
of Col^o Gooch's Regim^t at Rhoad Island.

GENERAL WENTWORTH TO GOVERNOR WARD.

Sir

His majesty having Signified To me That it is his Pleasure That The Expedition Design'd by his

¹ See note to letter of August 12, 1741.

² For an account of the expedition against the Spanish West Indies, see page 143.

Land forces against The King of Spains Dominions In South America, Should be putt an End To, and that the Regiment Commanded by Coll Gooch, Should be Immediately Reduced, and That I Should Send Back To north America all such Soldiers of That Regiment, as do not Choose To Remain here In The Plantations, or To Serve in Companys on-board The Fleet; I have taken The best measures In my Power for Executing The above orders, and accordingly have Dispatcht Transports To The Ports, from whence The Soldiers may be most Conveniently Dispersd To Their Respective habitations; Every man having Received his full Pay To october the 24th his Firelock, and The Cloathing of which he was Possesst, at The Time of his Reduction, according To what his majesty was Graciously Pleasd To Promise, att The first Raising The Regiment.

As Some of The men will Probably arrive feeble, and Sick, I beg Leave Sir, To Recommend it To you, That They may be Commodiously Convey'd To Their Respective habitations, as men who have undergone a good Deal of hazard, and hardships, During The Course of Their service In This Part of The world I am, S^r

Your most obedient Serv^t

THO^S WENTWORTH

KINGSTON JAMAICA October 15 1742.

His Excellency The Governor of Rhoad Island.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM SHIRLEY¹ TO GOVERNOR WARD.

Sir

Being informed that your Honour has divers Spanish Prisoners with you, brought in by Cpt. Rouse, and among them some Persons of Consequence, namely an Officer or two in the Land Service, and a Captain of a Privateer and a Master of a Schooner; which two last are good Pilots, as well in the Spanish West Indies as on the Coasts and Harbours of the English in North America; And apprehending it to be the Duty of the Governours of the Plantations to correspond with each other for their mutual Assistance, in all Matters wherein his Majesty's Service and the Interest and Safety of the Provinces are concerned; I thought it proper to acquaint you that it is my Opinion that Prisoners of such Consequence should be sent home, and delivered to one of his Majesty's Secretaries of State, with a full Account of their Characters and Circumstances, to prevent any ill Effects of their being left at large, and that

¹ Shirley was governor of Massachusetts from 1741 to 1757. He was born in Sussex, England, and emigrated to Boston in 1731, where he became a persistent place-hunter. He was conspicuous in raising troops for Cathcart's expedition, in 1740. In 1741 he served on the commission to settle the Rhode Island boundary. As governor he was noted for his determined attempts to restrain the colonial issues of paper money, and for his part in military affairs. The capture of Louisburg was due to him, as regards both the idea and its execution. From 1749 to 1753 he was on leave of absence. In 1755 he led an unsuccessful expedition against Niagara. Upon Braddock's death, Shirley was made commander-in-chief of the British forces in America, but he had incurred the displeasure of the New York politicians, who intrigued until he was superseded in his command. In 1756 he was ordered to England by Lord Loudoun, who held him responsible for the loss of Oswego, and was removed from his governorship in the following year. He was made governor of the Bahamas, returned to Massachusetts in 1770, and died there in 1771. He was buried in King's Chapel, Boston. J. A. Doyle in *Dict. Nat. Biog.*

the Governm^t may dispose of them in such manner as may be most for his Majesty's Service. Your Honour will excuse me that I use this Freedom, and I pray that you will take the like with me, as Occasion shall require. I am, Sir,

Your Honour's most Obedient, Humble Servant

W SHIRLEY.

BOSTON Novem^r 8. 1742.

Hon^{ble} Gov^r WARD.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 12 mo or feb^r 21st 174²₃.

Gov^r Ward

Thy favour of the 6th Dec^r last I have received with the Copy of the Plan referred to in the Colonys State of their Case and allmost at the same time came to hand from New York an Authenticated Plan of the same of a larger Size—certified by the Surveyor Gen^l and the Collector and the Chief-Justice three of the Commiss^{rs}, and now I apprehend we are Sufficiently Provided with wh^t is necessary to Instruct our Council and prepare for the Hearing upon our appeal, which I intend shall be prosecuted with all Convenient Expedition, for Since Receiving the Plan we have already got the Cause sett down in the List at the Council Office for a Hearing before the Lords Committee of Council to whom our Petition of Appeal was Referred, because there are several Causes down allready before us, and we would get as early a Turn as Possible, it being for our Interest (as we

Judge) to be the Partys that apply to bring it on. The Colony may depend on my best Endeavours in the Course of the proceedings towards bringing it to a good Issue for us, and I do gratefully acknowledge their favour in keeping me duly Supplied having lately had a Remittance from Peter Bours and Jos: Whipple Esq^{rs}

Our Briefs long as they are were all Prepared last Summer but Could not get the Case ready for Printing before, but now we may do it

In this Session of Parliam^t nothing has been exhibited to the prejudice of the Plantations, Matters are Carried on there by a Considerable Majority, in such as Concern the King and its thought they will break up in about a Month or 6 Weeks time more, and that its Probable there will be yet Some more Changes in the Ministry, the War with Spain like to Continue, but we have none with France yet, for the Rest I referr to the Prints herewith sent, and Remain with Dew Respects to thy Self and the Gentlⁿ of the Council,

Thy Assured Friend,

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

We have engaged the attorney General¹ and the famous Counsel^r Murray² who is now Sol^r Gen^l as Counsel for us on our Side

Leon^d Lockman³ appointed Judge of the Admi-

¹ St. George Canfield, appointed in 1742.

² William Murray, who gained popularity by his eloquent support of the Spanish war in the House of Commons. He was attorney-general to the Newcastle administration, was made lord chief justice of the King's Bench in 1756, and first Earl of Mansfield in 1776.

³ See note to letter of 3 mo. (May) 28, 1743.

ralty of yo^r Colony goes over per the first Man of War that goes that way

To RICHARD WARD, Esq^r

Governor and Comand^r in chief of the Colony
of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND
COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

GEORGE R.

Trusty and Welbeloved, We greet You well. Whereas the Sieur Hop Envoy Extraordinary from our Good Friends and Allies, the States General of the United Provinces, has made Strong and repeated Complaints to Us,¹ that since the Commencement of the present War with Spain, the Captains and Officers of Our Ships of War, and others acting under Our Commission, have, without any Regard to the Terms of the Treaty of Marine² between our Royal Predecessor King Charles the Second, and their High Mightinesses the States General of the United Netherlands, concluded at London the 1st Day of December 1674 S. V. confirmed by Subsequent Treatys, frequently made prize of Dutch Ships and their Cargoes as well in Europe, as in America, upon pretence of their having on board Spanish Effects, tho' not contraband; And it being Our Royal Intention that all Engagements, which Subsist between Us,

¹ See letter of July 14, 1743.

² This was a renewal of the Marine Treaty of 1668, which defined the rights and obligations of neutral nations.

And Our said good Friends and Allies the States General should be most carefully and religiously observed; It is therefore Our will and Pleasure, and We do hereby authorize, and empower You to enjoin all Captains of Ships to whom you shall grant Letters of Marque, or Commissions, for private Men of War against the King of Spain and his Subjects, to observe carefully and religiously the said Treaty Marine, and give Security pursuant to the Tenth Article for their due performance thereof. And so We bid you Farewell. Given at Our Court at St. James's the Thirteenth Day of April 1743. in the Sixteenth Year of Our Reign.

By His Majesty's Command

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

To Our Trusty and Welbeloved

The Governor and Company of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation in America, Or to the Governor and Company of the said Colony for the time being.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WARD.

LONDON 3^d month 28. 1743

Gov^r. Ward,

I Apprehend it my Duty to Acquaint thee that of late the Crown has appointed Naval Officers in Several Governments of the Plantations one reason for which as I understand is that it is more likely the Acts of Trade and Navigation wo^d then better be put

in due Execution than by those who are Appointed in the Colony by the respective Governor's tho' by Act of Parliament¹ the right is in the Gov^r. Among the rest Leonard Lockman² a Person Commissioned to be Judge of the Admiralty of your Colony is also now made Naval Officer who goes over in the Torrington Man of War by way of N. York, and as I take this to be prejudicial to the right of our Charter as well as to the Gov^r. I judged it proper to exhibit a Petition against such Nomination, a Copy whereof comes inclosed³ which is lodged at the Council Office but till I have Instructions from the Colony I shall not prosecute it but let it lye dormant, least it sho^d at this time prejudice our Colony otherwise in a greater degree having heard some Hints thrown out against us which if prosecuted here might prove Disadvantagious to us all tho' at present they are winked at, however when the said Lockman gets over and the Colony shall think fit to refuse to Admit him as Naval Officer and give me Instructions to defend their rights in that respect I shall act accordingly.

¹ See letter of October 29, 1743.

² A committee was appointed by the General Assembly to inspect Lockman's patent as clerk in the naval office, and reported that the office was in the appointment of the colonial governor, not of the Crown. This report was accepted. As judge of vice-admiralty, Lockman found himself so hampered that he complained to the Crown, and his complaints occasioned an especial answer from the General Assembly (*Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 96). The true inwardness of this stand for privilege on the part of the colonists would seem to be found in Partridge's suggestion that upon the appointment of a naval officer by the Crown the Acts of Trade and Navigation would be more strictly executed. So far as the office of judge of admiralty was concerned, we find the Assembly, in the session of March, 1743, voting that, "Whereas, the judge of admiralty, for this colony, being gone home for Great Britain, and his deputy appointed here, declining to serve any longer; — It is therefore voted, that M^r. John Gidley, of Newport, in the county of Newport, be, and he is hereby appointed judge of the admiralty for this colony, until a person be properly appointed from home, to that office." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 60.

³ See the following document.

He says he shall appoint J. Honyman his Deputy and has got leave for it from the Lords of the Admiralty here. Our Cause relating to the Boundaries is now the Sixth on the List for hearing before the Lords Com^{ee} of Council but it's thought that it will be the fall of the Year before it will be possible to bring it on to be heard. I am,

Thy Assured ffriend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

4 month 10th

Our good Fr^d S^r Cha. Wager¹ is lately deceased. The King is gone to Germany and its expected will bring about an Accommodation between the Queen of Hungary and the Emperor leaving the French in the Lurch. If that be done probably we may have a Peace with Spain but this last is uncertain yet

R P

TO RICHARD WARD Esq^r

Governour and Commander in Chief of the
Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plan-
tations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO THE LORDS JUSTICES.²

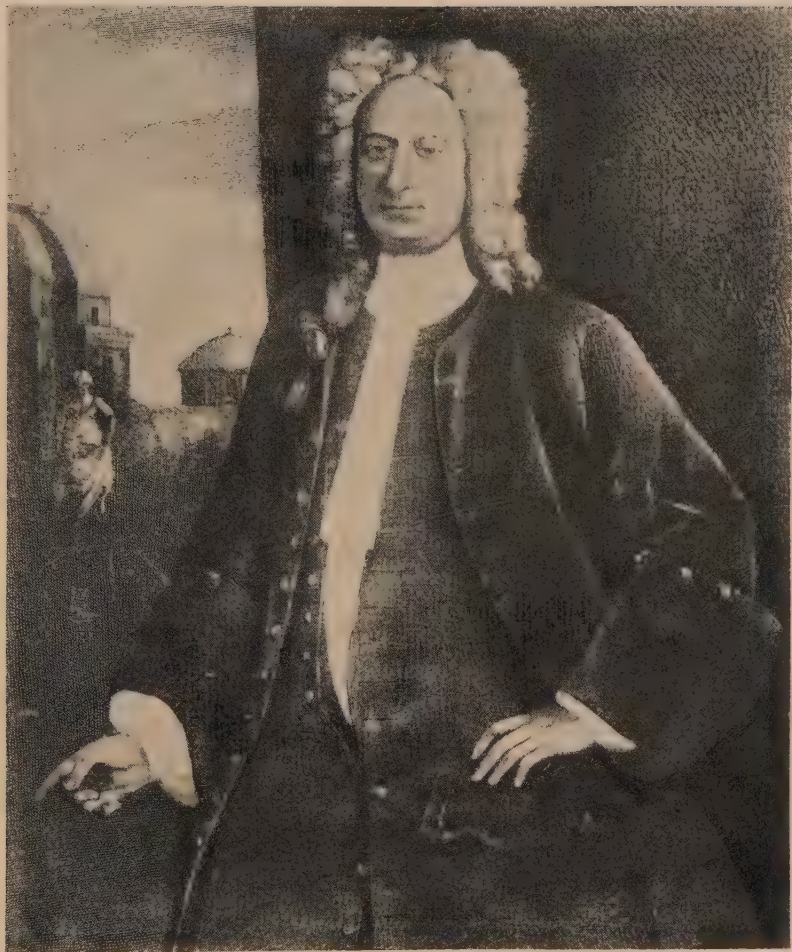
To the Lords Justices in Council

*The Humble Petition of Rich^d Partridge Agent
for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations in America*

Sheweth That by Charter under the Great Seal

¹ See note on p. 211.

² Enclosed in letter of 3 mo. (May) 28, 1743.



RICHARD WARD

1740-1743

King Charles the Second Incorporated Gov^r and Comp^a of the s^d Colony and for valuable Considerations granted them sundry necessary Powers and Privilidges for the well ordering and good Govern^t thereof and more especially Powers to constitute proper Offices.

That the Laws and Statutes of this Kingdom have invested the Gov^r of all his Maj^{ty}s Colonys with the Power of appointing the Naval Officers in the same and for whom those Govern^{rs} are answerable.

In consequence whereof not only the Gov^r of Rhode Island but of all the others of his Maj^{ty}s Colonys whatsoever have from time to time constituted the Naval Officers from the first Erection of that Office to the present time without any Exception to the contrary, that yo^r Pet^r is able to discover.

But yo^r Petitioner is very lately informed that Leon^d Lockman Esq^r hath obtained or is applying to obtain a Warrant or a Grant under the great Seal to the Naval Officer of Rhode Island during his Maj^{ty}s pleasure.

Which Information makes it indispensible duty of yo^r Pet^r as Agent for the s^d Colony humbly to represent That such an Appointm^t of the s^d Leon^d Lockman is as yo^r Pet^r humbly apprehends prejudicial to the Rights and Privilidges vested in the s^d Govern^r and Comp^a not only by their Charter but also by the Acts of Parliament.

And may be of the greatest Inconvenience to Trade and Commerce in those parts, since that the Rule for carrying on the same as laid down by the Acts of Parliament require all Persons Tradeing

thither to make Entrys and Perform Sundry Acts before the Naval Officer appointed by the Governour and if omitted lay the Traders under Penalties and forfeitures of no less than Ship and Cargo.

Your Petitioner therefore most humbly prays that you would not permit such Warrant or Grant to pass to the s^d Leonard Lockman. And that in Case the same has already passed the same may be revoked and determined with an Order to the s^d Lockman not to proceed to Act under the same untill you may have received satisfaction therein.

All which is humbly Submitted

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

ANDREW STONE TO THE GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL 14th July 1743.

Sir,

A Memorial¹ from Mo^r Hop, Minister from the States General to his Majesty, having been laid before their Excellencies the Lords Justices, complaining, that a Bark of Curaçoa named La Gertrude, Captain Samuel Baal Commander, being at Anchor near Rio de la Hache, in order to take in Wood and Water, was attacked by Three English Privateers, commanded by Robert Flowers, John Rous and William Wilkinson who seized upon the said Bark, and carried her into Newport in Rhode Island, notwithstanding, after visiting her, they had found no counterband Goods on board, and that the Court of

¹ See next document for a translation of the *Memorial*; also letter of March 15, 1744.

Admiralty there had condemned the said Bark in Consequence of which She was confiscated, and the Produce divided amongst the Captors contrary to the Treatys subsisting between His Majesty and the Republick; I am commanded by their Excellencies to signify their Directions to you, that you do immediately procure, and send over hither to be laid before them the proceedings of the said Court of Admiralty,¹ upon the Tryal of that Vessel, with a full Account of the Reasons which induced the said Court to proceed to the Condemnation of her, I am Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant.

ANDREW STONE

Governor of Rhode Island

TRANSLATION OF THE DUTCH COMPLAINT AGAINST
PRIVATEERS.²

Wherease, Abraham Diaz Coutino and Com^r Merchants Inhabitants under our Jurisdictions and Subject to their High Mightyness's the States Generall of the Netherlands, to us the Governour have made knowen, that they on the 23^d of April 1743. on their own accounts and Risques did fitt out from hence their Sloop Named the Juffro Sarah, Commanded by Schipper Coenvaat Huybling, to Trade to all the Free Ports in the West Indies, since which the above

¹ In the session of February, 1744, a committee was appointed by the Assembly to answer the letter of the Lords Justices, and to send home a copy of the decree of the court of vice-admiralty. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 79.

² Enclosed with letter of July 14, 1743.

named owners, have been well Informed, that the s^d Sloop being on the High Sea of Commena, was on the 17th July, 1743. taken by an English Privateer Commissioned by your Honour, Commanded by Cap^t William Hopkins which takeing is Directly Contrary to the Treaty between his Majesty of Great Brittain and their High Mightyness's the States Generall. the s^d Privateer being ready to Engage that the s^d Schipper was obliged to Strike. the Privateer then Boarded him and Proceeded with him and his Sloop for your Honour's Jurisdictions as Lawfull Prize, which seemes very strange to us that a Privateer under the English Government should Act in such a manner, not only so, but also not to pay any regaurd to the Declaration of his Majesty of Great Brittain, of this Present year 1743, made at the Instances of their High Mightyness's which s^d Declaration was Signed by the Lord Carteret and authentick Coppey of which wee had the Honour to receive by the last Vessells arrived here from Holland In which Declaration His Majesty of Great Brittain Declares to all the Governours in America that they Pay a Due Regaurd to the Maritime Treaty of the 1st Dec^r 1674. and Punctually observe the same. Pursuant to which wee Pray your Honour that the s^d Sloop be sett Free with Every thing belonging to her (thats not Contraband) as also that she be allowed all the Charges she's been put to, and wee shall allways think it our Duty to Retalliate and to keep up a Good Friendship between the Subjects of his Majesty of Great Brittain and those of their High Mightyness's the

States Generall. wee are with much Respect and
Friendship Your Honour's Friend and
Most Humble Serv^t

J. FAESCH.

CURACAO, 30 July 1743.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.¹

LONDON 5 month or July 28th 1743

Gov^r Green,

As thou art Elected Gov^r of Rhode Island I take it to be my duty to Write thee Concerning the Affairs of the Colony depending here w^{ch} at present are as follows, — I did some time since Write over Advising that one Leonard Lockman who is Appointed Judge of the Admiralty in your Colony had also obtained a Grant from the Crown to be Naval Officer w^{ch} I apprehending to be an infringement on the Priviledges of your Charter had Petitioned the Lords Justices against the said appointment² w^{ch} Petition lyes still at the Council Office, and shall not proceed further on it till I have proper Instructions, neither do I find I can till it be known whether the Colony thinks fit to Admit him or not when he comes there, if they sho^d not, The labouring Oar will then be upon him if he shall see meet to Exhibit any Complaint: I suppose he is yet at Portsmouth wait-

¹ Greene was deputy-governor in 1741 and 1742, and elected governor in 1743, 1744, 1746, 1748 to 1755, and in 1757. He died in February, 1758. He was prominent in Rhode Island politics as the candidate of the Ward party in the famous Ward-Hopkins controversy, which came first to the front in 1755.

² See note to letter of May 28, 1743. The Lockman affair was still pending settlement in 1749. See letters of October 29, 1743, February 1 and 23, 1744, and that of Governor Greene to Partridge, June 18, 1749; also in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 270.

ing to go over via New York by a Ship who Sails per the first fair Wind,

As to the Grand Affair of the Colonys ab^t the Boundarys with the Massach^{ts} our Petition of Appeal was first lodged as I have already advised in due time and set down on the list According as the manner is at the Council Office for a hearing before the Lords Committee of Council, but as yet ours does not come on, and do what we can I believe it will be ab^t October next before it will come forward ¹ in the mean time We shall be duly prepared and our Council Instructed and hope we shall at length have it happily Issued for us.

As to Publick News thou wilt doubtless have heard of the Victory our King with his Army in Germany obtained over the ffrench under the Command of their General the Marshall Noailles altho' the latter were Considerably Superiour in Number. The Duke of Cumberland was Wounded but like to do very well again. The King received no hurt, As both these Armies are looked upon as Auxiliaries only, the one to the Queen of Hungary and the other to the Emperor its very questionable whether the Consequence will be attended with a general ffrench War.

Prince Charles Brother in law to the Queen of Hungary and her famous Generalissimo is arrived at Hannaco to concert further Measures with our King w^{ch} probably will be to drive the ffrench out of Germany and then endeavour to take Lorrain, from them for the said Queen by way of some Compensa-

¹ See letter of Partridge to Deputy-Governor Whipple, written 4ber (June) 15, 1744.

tion, for the rest I referr to the Prints now sent and remain

Thy Assured ffriend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

To WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

Governour and Commander in chief of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

THOMAS CORBETT¹ TO THE GOVERNORS IN AMERICA.

Copy of a Letter from M^r Corbett to the several Governors of his Majesty's Colonies in America. dated the 19th August 1743.

My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty having had frequent Complaints made to them by the Commanders of his Majesty's Ships and Vessels in America, that they are often interrupted in their endeavours to procure Seamen to make up their Complements in order the better to enable them to execute their Lordships Instructions for protecting the Trade of the Colonies they attend on, and annoying the Enemy; And it appearing to their Lordships, that the obstructions the Captains meet with from the Inhabitants in America and Masters of Merchant Ships trading there, is chiefly groundd upon an opinion prevailing among them, that the American Act, made in the Reign of Queen Anne, prohibiting the Pressing in America, is still in Force; I am commanded by their Lordships to send you the inclosed Opinions of Sir Edward Northey;² His

¹ Secretary of the Admiralty from 1721 until his death, in 1751.

² Sir Edward Northey was attorney-general from 1701 to 1707, and from 1710 to 1718. He was knighted in 1702.

late Majesty's Attorney General, and of Sir Dudley Ryder¹ Attorney, and Sir John Strange² Solicitor General, by which you will plainly see, that the American Act, on which the Inhabitants and Masters of Merchant Ships lay so much Stress, expired at the end of the late French War.

Their Lordships hope that when these Opinions, and that the People there are sensible that His Majesty's Ships want Men for no other use than to protect their Trade and Settlements, and guard them from their Enemies, there will not be any more such Disputes raised, and obstruction given to the necessary Work of Manning them ; And their Lordships recommend it to you to settle Men's Minds on this point, as you see occasion, and to give all necessary Assistance to His Majesty's Officers to procure Men, when they apply to you for that purpose.

Copy of the Opinion of the late Sir Edward Northey, his Ma^{ty's} Attorney Gen^l, in relation to the American Act, dated the 10th Feb^y 1718.

I am of Opinion that the whole American Act was intended, and appears to have been intended only for the War.

EDWARD NORTHEY.

Copy of the joint Opinion of Sir Dudley Ryder, Attorney, and Sir John Strange Solicitor Gen^l in relation to the American Act, dated 17th July 1740.

We have perused the several Clauses in the American Act, and by comparing the several Clauses

together, it seems to Us that the Act is not now in force, but expired at the end of the then War.

D. RYDER J. STRANGE

ANDREW STONE TO THE GOVERNOR OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL. Oct^r 1st 1743.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by Their Excellencies The Lords Justices to transmit to You herewith, a Representation from the Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty,¹ Setting forth the Obstructions given by the Inhabitants of his Majesty's Colonies, and Plantations in America, to the Captains of His Maj^{ty}'s Ships of War, in procuring Men to recruit the Complements of Their Ships, and in retaking such Sailors, as have deserted from Them; and Complaining particularly, That Several of the s^d Captains had been insulted by the Populace, and forced to release such Men, as They had impress'd, and even Deserters from their own Ships; And That Other Captains had been imprison'd, or forced to give exorbitant Bail, upon Actions brought against Them, for impressing Seamen; Which Proceedings Their Lo^{ps} represent to be occasion'd by a Notion prevailing in Those Parts, That the Act of Parliament, which pass'd in the Reign of the late Queen Anne, (and which is commonly call'd the American Act, by which the Impressing Men for the Sea Service in America, was prohibited,) is still in Force: Whereas

¹ See the following document.

You will see by the Copies,¹ annex'd to the s^d Representation, of the Opinions sign'd by Sir Edward Northey, Attorney General to His late Maj^{ty}, and by Sir Dudley Rider, His Maj^{ty}'s Attorney General, and Sir John Strange, late Solicitor General, That the said Act is not now in Force: And I am therefore commanded to signify to you Their Excellencies Directions, That you should exert your utmost Authority in preventing, for the future, Such Riots and Disorders, as are complain'd of by the said Representation; and that You should assist the Commanders of His Maj^{ty}'s Ships, in procuring Seamen, to make up Their Complements, whenever They shall make Application to You for that Purpose; As also in retaking Deserters from the said Ships.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

ANDREW STONE

Gov^r and Company of Rhode Island.

THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE LORDS JUSTICES.²

May it please Your Excellencys,

The Difficulty of keeping His Majesty's Ships of War, that are employed in America, sufficiently manned to perform the Services they were sent on, is in it's self great, from the unavoidable Causes of Deaths and Desertion, the latter of which is grown

¹ For the *Opinions* see the preceding document.

² Enclosed in letter of October 1, 1743.

familiar among the Seamen, either for the sake of high Wages given by the Merchants, or from their own natural Levy; But the Obstructions given by the People of those Colonys, to the usual Methods of pressing, made use of by the Captains of His Majesty's Ships, to recruit their Complements, have of late been so violent, and carried on with such Instances of Contempt of Government, and such personal ill Treatment of the Captains, that we think it incumbent on us humbly to lay before Your Excellencys, in the annexed Paper,¹ Copys of the Complaints we have received from the said Captains on that Head, within little more than the Space of a Year past, whereby Your Excellencys will perceive, that some of the said Captains have been mobbed, others imprisoned, and afterwards held to exorbitant Bail, and are now under Prosecutions carried on by Combination, and by joint Subscription towards the Expence.

The chief Reason, that we can find for such Opposition, is a Belief prevailing among the People here, that the American Act made in the War of Queen Anne, which forbad pressing in America, is still in Force.

We have sent to the respective Governors and Judges of Vice Admiralty in all the Colonys; the Opinion of S^r Edward Northey, and of the present Attorney General, and of S^r John Strange, all agreeing, that the said American Act expired with the War, in which it was made; Copys of which Opinions, and of the Letters accompanying the same, to the

¹ This paper is not in the archives.

Governors and Judges of the Vice Admiralty, are annexed.¹

In the Press Warrants which we give to the Captains of His Majesty's Ships in America, they are strictly required not to distress either the Merchant Ships, or the Privateers, Copy of which Warrant is annexed;² and the Captains inform us, that it is their usual way to take only one Man out of five or six, and if they have any Spanish Prisoners, they allow them one for each Englishman so prest, to assist in navigating the Merchant Ship home to England.

The Governors of the Colonys appear indeed to show a Disposition to help the Captains of His Majesty's Ships to get Men, when they apply to them; but whether that Disposition be real, or that they want Authority, the Captains find little or no Help from them to procure Seamen, nor even to protect them from the Rage and Insults of the People.

The Consideration therefore of the many ill Consequences, that may attend His Majesty's Service, if the Captains of the Men of War are liable to be thrown into Jail, abroad in the Plantations, by any disaffected Persons, at a time perhaps that they are going on some Expedition or Service of Importance against the Enemy, and always while they are in the Execution of their Orders to protect the Colonys and their Trade; That such ignominious Usage exposes their Commission to Contempt, and makes them less able to maintain their Command on board His Majesty's Ships with Honour and Discipline, and

¹ See p. 235 for the *Opinions*.

² See the following document.

also that while the Opinion remains of the American Act being in Force, it will be impossible for His Majesty's Ships to recruit the Deficiency of their Complements, are our Reasons for humbly laying this Matter before Your Excellencys; to whom it is humbly submitted.

WINCHILSEA.
J. COKBOURNE.
BALTIMORE.
GEO. LEE.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE 26th Sept^r 1743.

To Their Excellencys the Lords Justices.



THE LORDS OF THE ADMIRALTY TO THE CAPTAINS.¹

Copy of an Order from the Lords Com^{rs} of the Admiralty to the several Captains of His Majesty's Ships in America.

Whereas You will herewith receive Press Warrants to enable You to raise Men for keeping up as much as possible the Complement of the Ship under your Command, You are hereby required and directed to put the same in Execution for that purpose, as there shall be Occasion; But as it is not meant, that the Trade of His Majesty's Subjects in America, or Ships provided with Letters of Marque to Cruise against the Enemy should be distressed thereby, but only that such prudent Use be made of the said Press Warrants as may enable you to procure Men to make up Your Complement, when proper Opportunities offer of it, You are to take great Care that

¹ Enclosed in a letter to the Lords Justices, of September 26, 1743.

no Indiscreet or Unreasonable Use be made of them, and never to molest the Chief Officers, such as the Master, Mate, Boatswain, or Carpenter, or any Seamen found on board with protections granted by Us, pursuant to Act of Parliament Given under Our hands &c^a

GOVERNOR GREENE TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND Oct^{br} 29th 1743

Mr. Partridge;

Yours of the 20th of May came to Hand soon after the Arrival of Leonard Lockman Esq^r who presented me with a Patent appointing him Clerk of the Navy or Naval Office of this Colony which I laid before the General Assembly for their Opinion who appointed a Committee to consider thereof and make Report a Copy of which I have here inclosed whereby You'll find the Sense we have of this Affair¹ and altho' it is judg'd that we have a Right to reject said Lockman not only by Our Charter but by two Acts of Parliament One of the fourteenth Year of Charles the Second, the Other of the seventh and Eighth of King William yet I would not have You to omitt inforcing the Petition you put in by Council learned in the Law in Order to have this Patent revoked and at the same Time to represent in Behalf of this Colony that we do not act this Part with any other design but to preserve the Priviledges of the People and We hope that on a fair Hearing this Refusal of

¹ For the proceedings of the Assembly, see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 70. See also note to letter of May 28, 1743.

Leonard Lockman Esq^r will not be construed as an Act of Disobedience to his Majesty under whome We acknowledge to hold the most valuable Priviledges. As to the Controversy relating [to] our eastern Boundary I would have you to bring the same to Trial as soon as possible and You may depend on a further supply of money which the General Assembly who are now in being have ordered Me to Assure you that You shall have in a short Time. I have not to add But that I am with due Respects

Your assured Friend

W. GR[EENE]

To M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE

Merch^t in London

WILL STRAHAN¹ TO THOMAS CORBETT.

DOCTORS COMMONS 1st February 174³

Sir

I have received yours of the 28th of last Month, with a Letter inclosed from Leonard Lockman Esq^r Judge of the Vice Admiralty Court of Rhode Island, complaining that he is obstructed in the execution of his Office by the Governor and Company of the said Island,² and upon perusing the said Letter it appears to me that he has just ground of Complaint in the several particulars therein mentioned.

1st For they not only refuse to Swear the Deputy

¹ Appointed advocate to the Lords of Admiralty in 1742.

² See note to letter of May 28, 1743.

Judge appointed by him to Officiate in his absence, but they Nominated one of their own Authority, who Acted by their Authority til M^r Lockman's arrival in Rhode Island. I do not know what Authority they could have to Nominate a Deputy, when the Principal Judge had been appointed by the Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty.

2^d It is said that they will not permit the Deputy of M^r George Gibbs, who has been appointed by the Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty to be Marshal for the said Colony, but notwithstanding the Appointment of a New Marshal, they continue the Deputy of M^r Charles Paxton, the late Marshal. This is usurping an Authority in direct opposition to the Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty.

3 He complains also, that they will not permit the Register of the Court to take the Bonds by Law required for the Commissions of Privateers, but the Secretary takes the said Bonds. This I take to be very irregular. For if the Judge of the said Vice Admiralty Court has a Special Commission to grant Letters of Marque, which I do not know whether he has or not, the Security that is taken from the Commanders and Owners of Privateers, ought to be taken by the said Judge, and by none other that has not a proper Authority.

4 A further Complaint is, that since his arrival in the said Colony, they have made a new Law,¹ to regulate the Fees of the Officers of the Court, and have reduced them to so low a degree, that the Judge

¹ This law was passed in the October session of 1743. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 73. It may be found in the *Digest of 1745*.

has not a competent Allowance to support the Dignity of the Office ; As to this Matter of Fees, it had been proper for M^r Lockman to have sent over a Table of the accustomed Fees received in the said Court, as also a Table of the Fees, as they are now reduced, which would have enabled their Lordships to give proper Directions therein.

5 But in the other Matters complained of, as it is evident that the Judge and other Officers of the said Vice Admiralty Court of Rhode Island, have been interrupted in the execution of their respective Offices, to which they have been properly appointed by the Lords Comm^{rs} of the Admiralty, it must be submitted to their Lordships, whether it may not be proper to represent the Case to His Majesty, that he may give the proper Directions that the Judge and Officers of the said Vice Admiralty Court may not be obstructed in the execution of their respective Offices. all which is humbly submitted to their Lordships by, Sir

Your most humble Servant .

WILL : STRAHAN

THO. CORBETT.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 12 Mo. or Feby 23^d 174³.

Gov^r. Green

This comes to acknowledge the rec^d of thy favour of the 29th Oct^r.¹ last with a Copy of y^r Assemblys Vote or Opinion relating to the non admittance

¹ See page 242.

of Leon^d Lockman for Naval officer, w^{ch} I am very glad off, that they acted so prudently and w^{ch} I really think will be attended with no ill Consequence here, the Court and Governm^t being at this time otherwise very much engaged; I have made due enquirey at the Court end of the Town ab^t that Affair; and at the Sec^{ry} of States Office upon discoursing wth two of the Chief Clerks there, one of them told me that the People (of Rhode Island) were in the right of it not to admitt him and that he did not Expect or beleive they would, and the other acquainted me that he received a Letter from Lockman acquainting him of his being refused admittance, that he expected the matter wo^d be decided at the Council office and that he had writ to Sharp the Solicitor ab^t it, but this Gentlⁿ I cant beleive will take any Steps ab^t it till he knows who will Answer the Expence, however I shall be on the watch and when ever any proceedings sho^d be made ab^t it I shall then Prosecute my Petition w^{ch} still lyes at the Council office, and till then it is Judged most prudent not to take any Steps at all in it, nay I am told I cannot, till there be some Complaint exhibited Regularly, so that upon the whole we need be in no pain ab^t it.

As to the Controversy relating to the Boundary we have not been able to get a day appointed for it yet by the Lords Committee, but as we are now next on the List the Clerk of the Council gives me some Expectation of having an appointm^t for us in a little Time — that is if the present Exegency of the Publick Affairs of the Nation do not too much interrupt.

As to the publick News, there has been for ab^t 14

Days past a ffrench ffleet from Brest of 22 Men of War hovering ab^t our Coast in the Channel and now 14 Sail of them are at Anchor under Dungeness and the rest gone over to Dunkirk and the fflemish Coast. what their Design is we know not yet, it was apprehended an Invasion was intended in favour of the Pretender's Eldest Son, but now that report gains but little Credit, and they think the Design is agst Newport and some other Sea port Town in Flanders belonging to the Queen of Hungary,

Adm^t Norris with a Fleet of ab^t 22 Stout Men of War are now riding in the Downs and whether if the Wind proves ffavourable (w^{ch} at present it does not) he will attack them or not is uncertain, — The Case is if the English strike the first blow before they are attacked our Allies the Dutch are not under obligation to joyn us and take part in the War, w^{ch} I beleive make's our Nation not so forward as they wo^d otherwise be in beginning the War:¹ thou wilt see by the prints herewith that the King has had intelligence ab^t the motion and intencion of the Pretend^{rs} Son, and that the Parliam^t have addressed him there upon but I hope we have not much to fear ab^t him, for the rest I refer to the prints here with sent and am

Thy Friend

R^d P.

P. S. No Action yet happened betwⁿ Adm^t Mathew's and the ffrench and Span ffleet in the Mediterranean

¹ In 1744 France declared war against England, and furnished a fleet for the Young Pretender. This was destroyed by a storm.

Ditto. 28^b

Since the foregoing the apprehension abt^t an Intended Invasion from the French in favour of the Pretend^{rs} Eldest Son seems to be certain as thou wilt see by the inclosed prints, but as due preparation is making in divers parts of this Kingdom its expected they will be defeated, 6000 of the Dutch ffoces are soon expected over hither according to Stipulation; S^r John Norris wth a stout ffleet of Men of War are still in the Downs with whom the ffrench cannot pretend to Engage. He has lately been out after them, but a violent Storm arriving and the wind taking him short again is returned, and the ffrench fled away; Our ffleet under the Command of Adm^l Matthews they say has gain'd a Victory over the French and Spanish ffleet at Toulon¹ but the Particulars of that Engagem^t we know not yet. War is not proclaimed ag^t France but its expected in a Short Time; for the rest I refer to the inclosed prints and remain

Thy Assured Friend

R^D PARTRIDGE1st month the 9th

Since I writt the foregoing w^{ch} went via Bristol the most p^t of the Brest Squadron of Men of War mentiond therein have been (as far as I can learn) dispersed not without damage in the very great Storm that happend on the 25 ult. and therein also many

¹ On February 9 the Spanish fleet left the harbor of Toulon, and engaged the English blockading fleet. A feud between Admiral Matthews and Vice-Admiral Lescock prevented effective coöperation. Much discredit was brought upon the English fleet. Admiral Matthews was removed from the service, and several captains of ships were cashiered.

of their Transports wth Soldiers on board driven on Shoar abo^t Dunkirk Road and the Rest of their fforces there in other Ships disimbarked, and on consideration of our preparations here and that there are not such disturbances and intestine Quarrels amongst us as they imagined, I am of opinion the French will intirely give over the Attempt, especially too as the Toulon combined Fleet has been beat by Admiral Mathews in the Mediteranean w^{ch} seems to gain gen^l credit here, alltho there be no Express arriv'd yet from that Admiral (w^{ch} is hourly expected wth the perticulars), this I say must undoubtedly strike such a damp upon them as that they will hardly care, (notwithstanding all their Bustle) to engage in a gen^l War wth us, But content themselves wth declaring That what they have been doing hitherto against us, was only as Auxiliaries to the Crown of Spain, yet tho' such hints as these are thrown out, our King and Ministry will hardly rely on those conjectures but continue the preparations for defence. They say that the Expen^{ce} to the French in fitting out their Toulon Fleet has cost them as much as the maintaining an Army of 10,000 Men w^d would do for a Twelve-month, and if Beaten not easily repaired. The design of this Fleet together with 9 some say 14 Spanish Men of War that joynd them was destined on a Voyage to Antibes¹ further up in the Straits wth a Supply of Forces and Amunition for the Spanish Army thereabouts under the Command of Count Gages and Don Philip the King of Spains younger Son who have been for a Consid^{ble} time upon an Undertaking for

¹ A port of southern France.

recovering some of the Queen of Hungary's Dominions from her in Italy. for the rest I refer to the prints inclosed and remain

Thy assured ffr^d

R^d PARTRIDGE

I send thee by this Ship a Packet with news Papers to And^r Oliver my Correspond^t to forward, and in it also our printed case Relating to the Boundaries.

To WILL^M GREEN Esq^r

Governour and Command^r in chief of The Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GOVERNOR GREENE TO THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.¹

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND March 15th 174³/₄.

My Lord

In obedience to the Directions of their Excellencies the late Lords Justices to me to procure and Send the proceedings of the court of Admiralty here upon the trial of a bark of Curraco Called La Gertruyda Cap^t Samuel Baal Commander Taken near Rio de la Hache by three English Privateers Commanded by Robert Flowers, John Rows, and William Wilkinson and Condemned in the Court of Admiralty in this Colony, and divided Among the Captors (which M^r Hop Minister From the States Gen^l of the United provinces Complains of as Contrary to the Treaties Subsisting Between his Majestie And the

¹ Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 79. See letter of July 14, 1743.

States) together with a full Account of the Reasons which Induced the Said court to proceed to the Condemnation of her. I Have Procured the Inclosed Authentick Copy of the trial of the s^d bark from the Records of the Admiralty Court and a Committee of the General Assembly of this Colony has been appointed to Enquire of the Late Deputy Judge (who is now a prisoner for Debt) what Reasons he had to Induce him to proceed to the Condemnation of s^d Bark, who Replied, that he had no other Reasons to render but those he had Assigned, in the body of his Decree. So that I Am not Able to give Your Grace Any further Account but Humbly Hope that as this court which has the Sole Cognizance of prizes Is wholly Independent, of Any Authority In this Colony, that the Governour and Company will never be thought Liable to Censure on account of Any Judgment in that Court that may be thought owing to the Mistakes or Passions, of An Ignorant or Indigent Person; that without their Consent or Knowledge may be Deputed, to Judge And Determine Singly in Matters of Such high and Publick Concernment

I Am with Great Respect My Lord

Your Graces Most Humble and Most obedient
Servant

W. GREENE

Endorsed: Letter to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle. In Answer to a Letter from Home about prizes condemned by Judge Pemberton.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 1st Month 29th 1744*Gov^r. Green*

I have writ thee lately via Topsham, Bristol, and Liverpool and sent thee Copy of the ffrench Kings Declaration of War agst us and now this incloses one of them also, it was Expected War wo^d have been proclaimed here agst them by this time, but they say now it will not be done till next week when the Parliam^t meets again they having Adjourn'd themselves to the 3rd of next Month, We are fearfull that several of our homeward bound Ships that have had no Notice of the War will be snappd up, but I suppose we have several Men of War out upon the Cruise who have sent in some ffrench Ships they have taken already.

The Court have been so much taken up of late with State Affairs and matters of Importance that we have had very few Committees of the Council since December last and consequently we have not been able to get a Day appointed yet for the hearing of our Cause of the Boundarys, and as to the Affairs of Lockman I beleive that is pretty well at an end for I can't think any Person will stir in it for him here, it lyes as it were Dormant at present however, two Days hence War will be proclaimed here agst ffrance, I have sent a Packett for thee per this Convey^a to my ffr^d And^w Oliver of Boston with sundry more News Papers to be forwarded by a private hand of which I Desire thy acceptance from

Thy Assured Friend

R^D PARTRIDGE

Our Men of War have already taken several French prizes

To Governour GREEN.

THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE TO THE GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.

WHITEHALL, April 26th 1744.

Gentlemen,

You will receive, at the same Time with this Letter, one from the Commissioners,¹ who His Majesty has been pleased to appoint for Distributing the Moiety of the Prizes, taken from the Spaniards, between the 10th Day of July 1739, and the 19th October, then following, by any of his Majesty's Ships of War, Desiring, That You would take Care, That publick Notice be given in all Parts under Your Jurisdiction, to the Agents for the Captors of all such Prizes, taken as aforesaid, and to all other Persons, whom It may concern, immediately to furnish the said Commissioners with Authentick Accounts of all Transactions relating to the said Prizes; and also to pay to the said Commissioners the full Moiety of Their respective Accounts, in order to enable Them to carry into Execution His Majesty's most gracious Intentions towards Such of His Subjects, as have suffered by the unjust Seizures, and depredations of the Spaniards. I refer You to the Letter, which You will receive from the Commissioners, for

¹ See letter of May 18, 1744.

a more particular Explanation of what may be desired to be done on Your Part in this Matter; And am to signify to You His Majesty's Pleasure, That You should do every Thing in Your Power, to enable Them, in the most effectual Manner, to Execute Their Commission.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant

HOLLES NEWCASTLE

Governor, and Company of Rhode-Island.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON. 3d Month or May the 8th 1744.

Gov^r. Green

I have already Wrote thee of 28th Ult by James Perrin who is now at Portsm^o going Passenger with Cap^t Phillips and by whom I intend this, which serves to bring thee a Copy of the Bill¹ for Suppressing in great measure Paper Currency in the Plant^{as} hinted at in my last; it was presented and read in the House the 4th Ins^t but as this Sessions certainly break up the 12th Ins^t nothing further is likely to be done in it till the Parliam^t meets again in Nov^r next, and then It's expected the promoters of this Bill will Vigerously push for the geting it pass'd.

As for that Blank I have marked thus * it is Supposed will be filled with these or the like Words viz (Gov^r Council and Assembly).

¹ Not in the archives.

I wo^d also remark that the last Clause in the Bill is a very Severe one, intrenching on the Priviledges of our Charter with a Witness, and indeed I make no doubt at all but its levell'd principally at it,

Upon the whole whatever Instructions the Colony shall think fit to send me for Opposing the Bill I hope they will be Expeditious therein so as to be here against the next Sessions of Parliam^t which will be in ab^t 6 mo^s time together with Suitable Remittances, for its pitty the Cause sho^d be Starved, It being now a Considerable time since I have received any thing from Rhode Island,¹ We have not been able yet to bring the Cause of our Boundary to a Hearing by all we co^d do, and nothing is yet proceeded on in the Affair of Maj^r Lockman how soon it may be Stirred up I know not,

Here is also inclosed a Copy of a Scheme of Judge Auchmutys² ab^t an Expedition agst Cape Britton w^{ch}. I hear he has laid before some in the Ministry, but I don't understand it is as yet much given into, they having at present a great many other Affa^{rs} of Importance on their hands already; what time may produce with respect to the Proposed Expedition I know not, but tho^t the sending thee some Acco^t

¹ This appeal was not in vain. The Assembly met in October, provided for a remission to Partridge of £550 by a special emission of £900 in bills of credit, and further ordered a letter of instructions to be prepared and sent to him. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 97, and the Assembly's letter, which was approved November 3, 1744, on p. 287.

² Robert Auchmuty was appointed judge of vice-admiralty at Boston in 1733. In 1741 he was sent to England as agent for Massachusetts, and there published a pamphlet on *The Importance of Cape Breton to the British Nation, and a Plan for Taking the Place*. He died at Boston in 1750.

thereof as I met with it here might not be unacceptable from

Thy Assured Friend

R: PARTRIDGE

11 d^o

The foregoing is Copy of mine to Cap^t Phillips this now comes by a Sloop bound for Boston w^{ch} probably may meet with the same convoy at Portsm^o

herewith amongst the prints I send thee a small Book wrote formerly by Jer. Dummer in defence of the Charter Governm^{ts} w^{ch} I have thought might be very proper to have reprinted with the amendm^{ts} I have made to it in pa 18 and 27 as thou wilt see. in order to disperse amongst the Members of Parliam^t at their next Sessions w^{ch} might be of Service, but I submit it to the Judgm^t of yo^r Council and Assembly and shall wait their order for doing it or not—or whether they will make any further additions to it:

from

Thine as before

R^D PARTRIDGE

To Governour GREEN

THE COMMISSIONERS FOR DISTRIBUTING PRIZES TO THE
GOVERNOR AND COMPANY OF RHODE ISLAND.¹

S^r

His Majesty having been pleased by His Royal Letters Patent bearing date the 4th day of February

¹ See letter of April 26, 1744.

last, To Constitute and appoint Us His Commissioners for Distributing the Moiety of the Prizes taken from the Spaniards on or between the 10th day of July 1739 and the 19th of October then following by any of His Majesty's Ships of War: And the better to Enable Us to execute the Powers and Authorities granted by His said Commission has been pleased thereby to Require and Command the several Agents for the Captors and all other Persons whom it may concern, to Observe and follow such Directions from time to time as they shall receive from Us: and to be Aiding and assisting unto Us, as they will answer the contrary at their Peril: In order therefore the more effectually to carry into Execution His Majesty's most gracious intentions towards such of His subjects as have suffered by the unjust Seizures and Depredations of the Spaniards within the respective times and limitations expressed in the said Commission We find it highly expedient That the Agents for the Captors of all such Prizes taken as aforesaid should immediately furnish Us with Authentick accounts of all transactions relating to the said Prizes, and Pay Us the full Moiety of their respective accounts: And to that purpose We have caused Publick Notice to be given here, in the London Gazette: One of which Gazettes We send inclosed herein: And also a Letter from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle on the same subject; whereto We crave leave to referr Your Excellency. And to the end That None may plead Ignorance thereof We are now to Desire Your Excellency will cause the like Notice to be given in all such parts of Your Jurisdiction,

and in such manner as has been, or is now customary to publish things of the like Nature: And to Use all such other means of making the same known as to Your Excellency may seem necessary

We are with due Respect

Your Excellency's most humble Serv^{ts}

LONDON 18th May 1744

W^M BAKER

J^N^O HYDE

ROB^T JACKSON

JOHN CASAMAYOR

EZE HALL

WILL^M FAUKENER

To the Governor and Company of His Majesty's Colony of Rhode Island, and Providence Plantation in New England, in America.

GOVERNOR CLINTON¹ TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

NEW YORK 28th May 1744

Sir

By the last post I receiv'd a letter from Gov^r Shirley dated 13th inst advising that he had just time before the departure of the Messenger to inform me that late the night before a Vessell arriv'd at Boston from Glasgow which brought a printed Copy of the

¹ George Clinton was the second son of Francis, Earl of Lincoln. He entered the navy, and was, in 1732, appointed governor of Newfoundland and commodore of the squadron stationed there. In 1737 he was made commodore of the Mediterranean fleet, and in 1741 was commissioned governor of New York. He held the office until 1753, and retired with the sum of £80,000, which it was alleged he accumulated while in that position. On his return to England, with the rank of admiral, he was made governor of Greenwich Hospital. He died in 1761.

French King's Declaration of War against the Crown of Great Britain, and a written Copy of His Majesty's Declaration of War against the Crown of France dated the last day of March¹ which the Master of the Glasgow Vessell took from a printed Copy on Board a Vessell which he met at Sea, both which Declaration he made no doubt were authentick, and as in case of such a Rupture between the two Crowns, this or some of the neighbouring Provinces on the Continent may possibly be invaded, I shall think it my duty as far as possible to guard ag^t any Surprize and not only defend this Province to the utmost of my power; but lend all the assistance I am able to others, which as I persuade my self are also your Sentiments, I doubt not but you will readily give the necessary Orders to the People under Your Government especially those bordering on this Province to hold themselves in readiness to march to our Assistance on the first notice of the approach of an Enemy, and you may be assured I shall make the like Disposition for the Succour of your Colony I am sir

Your most Obedient Humble servant

G CLINTON.

SECRETARY WILLARD TO GOVERNOR GREENE.²

PROVINCE OF THE MASS^A BAY BOSTON June 5. 1744

Sir

This Court being apprehensive that nothing will more contribute to the Success of the War in these

¹ A copy of the declaration of war against France was sent to Rhode Island by the Duke of Newcastle with a letter, dated March 31, 1744. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 80.

² Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 93.

parts than that the Several Northern Governments in America Shall enter into an Agreement with one another, for their mutual Assistance and for carrying on the War in the most effect^l Manner.

We have accordingly chosen and appointed five Commissioners to meet at Albany the Twelfth of this Month (Where the Governour of New York has appointed to meet with the Six Nations) to treat with Commission^{rs} from the other Governm^{ts} in New England, and agree on Such Measures as may be thought equal and necessary for their mutual Safety and Defence and for annoying their Enemies; Such Agreement to be binding on the respective Governments.

We therefore desire your Honour, That Commissioners may be appointed by your Government with the Same full Power to transact these import^l Affairs at the Time and Place afores^d.¹ We pray your Excuse for not giving you longer Notice of this Business; The Meeting of the Six Nations of Indians at Albany on the Day above mentioned gives us Such an Opportunity of Strengthening our Interest which ought not to be lost, and we are but just now Apprised of it.

Your Honours most obedient Servants

In the Name and by Order of the G^t and Gen^l Court of said Province

JOSIAH WILLARD Secretary

The Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

¹ No commissioners were sent from Rhode Island. See letter of June 8, 1744.

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR LAW.¹

NEWPORT 7th June 1744

His Majesty's Declaration of War against the French King was read here with the usual Formality on Monday last, which obliges me now forthwith to send out our Colony Sloop for the Security of the Coast, and thereupon the General Assembly at their last Sessions in May last Month pass'd a Vote desiring Me to write to Your Honour, and requesting That Your Colony Sloop may be fitted out, and ordered to join Ours in their cruising upon this Coast.² The Course that is intended for our Sloop will be from Long Island to Martha's Vineyard and so backwards and forwards to guard both Sounds, And I do assure Your Honour That We shall be always ready here to lend Your Government what Assistance is in our Power upon any Invasion or Attack that shall be made upon You. For though the Governments are distinct, Yet our Common Interest is inseperable, and your Sloop being joined with Ours will be a Terror to any small Privateer, and thereby a greater Safeguard to both our Governments. I should be glad to have your Honour's

¹ Jonathan Law was born in Milford, graduated from Harvard in 1795, and acquired great local reputation as a lawyer. In 1725 he was elected chief justice and deputy-governor of Connecticut, and held these offices until chosen governor, to succeed Joseph Talcott, in 1741. He held that office almost continuously until his death, in 1750.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 88, for the vote of the Assembly.

Sentiments in this Affair¹ being with great Respect
Hon^{ble} S^r

Your most obedient Humble Serv^t

W. G.

To the Hon^{ble} JONATHAN LAW Esq

Governour and Comm^r in Chief in and over his
Majesty's Colony of Connecticut

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR SHIRLEY.

NEWPORT 8th June 1744.

S^r

Your Excel^{cy}'s Letter² came Safe to Me last Night
advising about the Meeting of the Commissioners of
the several Governments at Albany the Twelfth of
this Month, and for the appointing Commissioners
on the Part of this Government to be at the afore-
said Treaty.

I have now to acquaint Your Excel^{cy}, That our
General Assembly is adjourn'd to August next, and
not sufficient Time to call Them together to make
any Appointment for the Purpose aforesaid which
renders it incapable for any Thing to be done on
the Part of our Government,

W. GREENE

To His Excel^{cy} W^m SHIRLEY Esq

Cap^t General and Commander-in-Chief in and
over his Majesty's Province of the Massa-
chusets Bay
Boston

¹ See letter of June 19, 1744.

² See letter of June 5, 1744.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON June 16. 1744

S^r

I think it proper to acquaint your Honour with what the General Court of this Province have done for the raising Soldiers to reinforce the Garrison at Annapolis Royal (as you will find by the inclosed Vote)¹ and also at the desire of said Court to inform you of the weak State of the Garrison there, as I have received the Acco^{ts} of it from Major Mascareen the Commander in chief of the said Garrison (as you will see by the inclosed Copy of his Letter²) that so your Government may afford a proportionable Aid of Men for the said Garrison if they shall judge it reasonable and proper The Preservation of that Fortress being of great Importance to his Majesty's Service and Interest in these parts of America and more especially to the Navigation of these Colonies.

I am Your Honours most obedient humble Servant
W SHIRLEY.

The Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq.

VOTE OF THE GENERAL COURT OF MASSACHUSETTS.³

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY
In the House of Representatives June 12th 1744

Whereas the Preservation of His Majesty's Fortress at Annapolis Royall is an Affair of Great Importance to the Crown as well as to the respective

¹ See the following document.

² Major Mascarene's letter is given on p. 265.

³ Enclosed in Shirley's letter of June 16.

Governments in New England and that Until the arrival of some Force there from Great Britain It may be for His Majestys service to Afford them some immediate Relief,

Therefore Voted that His Excellency the Captain General be desired to give Orders for raising two Independant Companys of Volunteers Consisting of Sixty men each exclusive of Officers to be sent to that Fortress as soon as may be at the Expence of this Province and for Encouragement to good and effective men to Enlist in this Service; that there be and hereby is granted to be paid out of the Province Treasury to each Able Bodied man that shall Enlist Twenty Pounds old tenor or other Bills of Credit Equivalent and that they be freed from all Ordinary Impresses in this province three Years after their Return and that His Excellency the Governour be desired to Acquaint the Neighbouring Governments with the State of that Fortress that they may Afford a reasonable Aid of men for the aforesaid Purpose and inasmuch as the said Forces are neither to be Subsisted nor paid by this Province during their Continuance there that His Excellency be further desired to Use His good Offices with the Commander of that Fortress in Obtaining Pay and Subsistance for the Said Companys from the Crown until they return Home Sent up for Concurrence

HUSHING Spk^r

In Council June 12th 1744

Read and Concur'd

J WILLARD Secretary

Consented to

W SHIRLEY

Copy Examined by J. WILLARD Secretary.

MAJOR MASCARENE¹ TO GOVERNOR SHIRLEY.²

Sir.

I have receiv'd by Mr Bastide³ the Honour of yours of the 8th Instant and had the pleasure to see soon after Captⁿ Tyng in the Province Snow; the Countenance she Affords us here is of no small Consequence to the Publick Service especially at this Juncture. We had notice a few days ago by a passenger that came to some of the Settlements at the upper End of Our Bay from Lewisbourg that they had an Account at that Place of the War being declared between Great Britain and France which has Caused no small uneasiness to a number of People who live out of Our Fort and the Day before the Snow came a rumour being spread that a French Officer with a great Number of Indians and People from Cape Breton were up our River at a small Distance from this place, the Panick Seized the Women and Children whom I was Obligated to receive into the Garrison. this report however proved without Foundation. There is another more probable that at Lewisbourg they are fitting out seven Privateers too [two] already out to Cruise on the Eastern Coast of this Government, in Order to draw Provisions from Our Settlements of French Inhabitants at the upper End of Our Bay and Secure them from the Sloop

¹ John Paul Mascarene, a native of Languedoc, was made lieutenant-governor of Nova Scotia in 1740, and held the office until July, 1749, when he was succeeded by Governor Cornwallis, of whose council Mascarene became a member. He moved to Boston in 1750, and died there ten years later. *N. Y. Col. Doc.*, VI. 482.

² Enclosed in Shirley's letter of June 16, 1744.

³ John Bastide was the royal engineer stationed at Annapolis.

the man of war left at Canso, which I am afraid will prove too weak to resist the French.¹

The S^t John River Indians sent four delagates here about a fortnight ago I inclose the purport of their Conference I had with them could I keep them in peace the French of Cape Breton would have much less influence on Our Inhabitants. It is probable that if they have any Design on us they will Visit us soon whilst they know Our works are in bad repair and Our Garrison weak. I hope however they will not forgett us at Home and that the Province of the massachusetts being so much Interested in the preservation of this Countrey, Your Excellency will give us the Countenance and Assistance we may at this time Require. Capt Tyng making but a short Stay I am Obliged to Write in haste which I hope you will Excuse. I am with great Esteem and Respect, Sir

Your most humble and most obedient Servant

MASCARENE

ANNAPOLIS ROYALL 21th May 1744.

His Excellency Governour SHIRLEY

Copy Examined by J WILLARD Secretary.

¹ Early in May, Canso (or Canseau, a fishing-station at the southern end of the Strait of Canseau, which separates Cape Breton Island from Nova Scotia), was taken and burned by some six hundred French under Captain Duvivier. In August, Duvivier made an attempt to take Annapolis, but was repulsed. Shirley had sent Mascarene a reinforcement of two hundred militia. Parkman says they came without arms and were of little service. *A Half Century of Conflict*, II. 80.

GOVERNOR LAW TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

MILFORD June 19th 1744

S^r

Yours of the 7th Instant¹ I lately rec^d I am of the same Opinion with your Hon^r our Interests are inseparable and shall be ready to give all Assistance for your Defence. I had ordered the Cap^t of our Sloop to take in his full Complement of men and to Cruise from Montauk to Gayhead in Consort with your Colony Sloop and was very glad to hear it was agreeable to you

I take leave to Subscribe

Your Hon^{rs} most humble and obedient Servant

JONTH LAW

P S last Monday was Sennitt Gov^r Wolcott &c. Com^{rs} for the Congress att Albany sett out on their Journey from Hartford

J L

To W GREEN Eq^r

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR LAW.

NEWPORT 23^d of June 1744

S^r

Yours of the 19th Instant² I This Day Rec^d and Caused the Same to be Read in presence of our Gen^l assembly the Contents of which was well approv^d of, but since Your Hon^r Doth Not Informe us How long Your Sloop is to Cruise I am advised by

¹ See above, p. 261.

² See preceding letter.

our assembly to Inform Your Hon^r that our Sloop is ordered out as soon as may be, and to Cruise from Marthaes Vinniard to Montaug, and as far westward thereof as the west end of Long Island, and so to Cruise untill the first of october Next, provided Your Colony Sloop shall Joine with ours; in s^d Cruise;¹ which I make no Doubt of; from the Contents of Your Hon^{rs} Letter. this act of our Assembly has been past Since I wrote to Your Hon^r Last. I pray Your Honours answer as soon as may be; our Sloop will soon be Ready, the Chief She wates for is powder and that we Expect Dayly from York or Philidelphia.

I am S^r

Your Hon^{rs} Most Humble and obediant Servant
W. GREENE

To the Hon^{ble} JONATHAN LAW Esq^r
Gov^r and Command^r-in-Chief in and over his
Majesties Colony of Connecticut

GOVERNOR LAW TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

MILFORD June 29th 1744

S^r

I just now rec^d per the Post yours of the 23^d instant² and M^r Coggeshall intending to sail for Newport this Night or to morrow morning thot it most likely to give you the quickest Intelligence, thot best to improve it and shall give Orders according to your proposal, tho I am not so fully sensible of the Advantage in going any further Westward than was

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 90, 91.

² See preceding letter.

at first projected, and had rather that were abated, but if you insist upon it shall make no Difficulty. I also this day rec^d Acc^t from New London that our Sloop is near fully manned and will be delayd only on Acc^t of the same Article w^{ch} yours is, a Supply of w^{ch} I hourly expect from N. York to be landed att New haven, even all that I can any where procure. when and where yours and ours may joyn give Notice to our Cap^t Prentis att N. London. I am informd from Boston this day That Cap^t Tyng on Saturday night last took a french Privateer off the back of Cape Codd, but doubt not but you have fuller Acc^t

Our Com^{rs} from Albany are returned¹ and the Indians propose a Neutrality w^{ch} is accepted and the french Indians are allowd 40 dayes to come to Albany by their Sachems and come into the same Agreement, otherways to be lookd upon as Enemies and two Sachems are gone to the Eastward to oblige the Indians there to come into the same, doubtless you have or will soon have a full Acc^t thereof. I take leave to assure Your Hon^r That I am

Your assured Friend and humble Servant

JONTH LAW

To Gov^r GREEN

JOSIAH WILLARD² TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON Septm^r 1st 1744

Sir,

I am directed by his Excellency Gov^r Shirley (who is now absent at Castle William) to acquaint your

¹ See letters of June 5 and 8, 1744.

² Secretary for the colony of Massachusetts Bay.

Honour that a Discovery has been made of a Pack of Villains in this Province, who have counterfeited the Bills of your Govern^t and utter'd such counterfeit Bills within this Province, viz^t in Imitation of your twenty shilling and half Crown Bills of the new Tenor issued in the Year 1741, and have begun a Plate in Imitation of your Ten shilling Bills of the same Year, For w^{ch} they will be tried at our Court of Assize upon Wednesday or Thursday next. It is apprehended necessary to their Conviction that we should be furnished with an authentick Copy of the Act for establishing those Bills within your Colony certified under the Publick Seal of your Colony, and likewise that two of the Persons whose names are counterfeited upon these Bills should attend as Witnesses, otherwise there is danger that the Trial will be ineffectual; The Signers Names to the half Crown Bill are Edw^d Scott, John Gardner and Joseph Whipple, To the Twenty Shilling Bill Jn^o Gardner, John Dexter and Edw^d Scott. Please to send the Copy of the Act by the Express. The Persons principally concerned are Joseph Boyce and John Scias, who were each convicted before at Salem when the Signers last attended, for uttering counterfeit Bills. I am

Your Honours most obedient humble Servant

J WILLARD

The Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON Septem^r 19. 1744.

Sir,

There are just arrived in this place three Flags of Truce from Louisburg with a great Number of English Prisoners, Officers and others; By whom I have certain Intelligence that two Privateers (a Brigantine and a small Ship) were already come out from thence to cruize upon these Coasts, and that another Brigantine Privateer was ready to sail from thence upon the same Design:¹ I have thereupon ordered the two Guard Vessels belonging to this Province now in Port to sail forthwith in quest of these Vessels. This Advice I send to your Honour, presuming that you will order out your Guard Vessel for the Protection of the Navigation belonging to his Majesty's Subjects.

I must pray your Honour to send by Express the inclosed Letters to the Governour of Connecticut, and to desire him immediately to forward that directed to the Governour of New York, that so his Majesty's Service in this important Article may not suffer by Delay.

I am Your Honours most obedient humble Servant
W SHIRLEY.

The Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

Deposition of Messrs. Richards, Neelson, and Joncourt.²

John Richards and John Nelson of New York, Mariners, and Peter D Joncourt of Dublin Merchant, declare and Say that on

¹ See following document.

² Enclosed in letter of September 19, 1744.

the Seventh Day of June last, they were taken in the Brigantine Madera Packet and carried into Louisburgh about a Month after, and upon the Seventh Instant Embarked for Boston in a French Flag of Truce and that three Days before they Sailed from Louisburgh two French Privateers Sailed from thence designing for the Coast of New England and New York as was generally reported there, One of the said Privateers a Ship with about Sixteen Guns and about One hundred and fifty Men, and the other a Brigantine with ten Carriage Guns and One hundred and twenty men. That there were three Men of war at Louisburg, One of Sixty Six, One of Fifty Six, and the other of thirty Guns, and Six Merchant Ships arrived from East Indies, which the Declarants understood the Men of War above mentioned were designed to Convoy home to France

JOHN RICHARDS
JOHN NEALSON
PETER DEJONCOURT

BOSTON September 19th 1744

Cap^t John Richards John Nelson and Mr Peter DeJoncourt made Oath to the Truth of the Above Declaration by them Signed

Before me

JACOB WENDELL Just. Pea.

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR LAW.

S^r

Last Night I rec^d a Pacquet from his Excel^{cy} William Shirley Esq Gov^r of the Massachusetts Bay &c.¹ wherein am informed that 3 Flags of Truce arrived from Louisbourg with a great Number of English Prisoners, of Officers and others, who have given certain Intelligence that two Privateers (a Brigantine and a small Ship) were already sailed from thence to come upon these Coasts. And that another Brigantine Privateer was ready to sail from thence upon

¹ See preceding document.

the same Design, and that his Excel^{cy} had ordered the two Guard Vessels belonging to the Province out immediately in Quest of them; And I am further to acquaint your Honour, That our General Assembly is now Sitting, and have this Morning pass'd a Vote to continue the Cruise of our Colony Sloop till the last Day of next Month¹ and I am now going to dispatch a Boat after said Sloop (which sailed out from here but Yesterday) to inform Cap^t Fones of the Resolution of the General Assembly, and to give Him further Directions how to act on this special Occasion, and I am also desired in said Vote to request That Your Honour will give Cap^t Prentice the necessary Orders in this Affair, and order Him to cruise with our Sloop during the Time before mentioned

I have inclosed to your Honor a Copy of the Evidences of John Richards, John Neelson and Peter DeJoncourt, that gave their Affidavits to the Facts in the above Relation, for Fear there should not be one inclosed in your Pacquet, and his Excel^{cy} Gov^r Shirley desired Me to acquaint Your Honour that He requested your Sending the Packets for his Excell^{ty} Governour Clinton and Cap^t Peter Warren, immediately by Express as soon as they come to your Hands. I am with due Respects

Your Honour &c
W. G

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND 21st September 1744.

To the Hon^{ble} JONATHAN LAW Esq
Governour and Commander in Chief in and over
his Majesty's Colony of Connecticut

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 96, for vote of the Assembly.

GOVERNOR LAW TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

MILFORD Sept^r 23^d 1744S^r

I just now rec^d yours of the 21st Instant.¹ shall forth forward the Acc^t to N York with all possible Expedition, shall take Care as you desire with respect to our Sloop, which I understand by the Bearor is out on a Cruise (as I hope with yours) and will be acquainted by the Intelligence you have sent out after yours

I remain with all due Regards

Your Hon^r's humble Servant

JONTH LAW

To the Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r
Gov^r of Rhode island etc.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 8^{ber} the 12th 1744

Gover^r. Green

I wrote Thee my last of 9th 5 month, since which I have not been fav^d with any from Thee.

As to our Cause depending at the Council Office relating the Boundary we have not been able to bring it to a hearing yet notwithstanding we have often Endeavoured it.

And now this serves to bring my Acc^t with the Colony, the Ballance whereof is in my fav^r £257. 16. 10. and the Council Office Fees and our Council

¹ See preceding letter.

fees not yet brought in, and as the Parliament is to sitt the 27th of next Month for Dispatch of Business I hope the Colony will furnish me with money sufficiently to enable me to carry on their Affairs, for without it little can be done here, its pittty the Causes sho'd be starved, — there will be a Call for Considerable Sums as I have already heretofore advised the Committee of Correspondence: Our Solicitor has sent me his Bills of Costs to the 30th Ult^o w^{ch} comes also here inclosed and are included as thou wilt see in my Acc^t We have 2 Causes depending of the Colonies, besides that which is likely to engage us in Parliam^t, I hope therefore at least £500 Sterl^s will be remitted me, over and above the Ballance of my Acc^t of which I shall endeavour to render Acc^t to Satisfaction, and do my utmost together with the Assistance of our Lawy^{rs} for the Interest and Service of the Colony.

I understand it is difficult now this War time to remit money over here which makes it still harder for me, I wo^d therefore recommend the making the Remittances per James Allen Esq^r of Boston who I am informed will have Occasion to draw for very considerable Sums on the Office of Ordinance which I believe will be well paid, I having a pretty good Acquaintance wth the Principle person that transacts Affairs in that Office, and that there will be no Risque of the Sea; I wish he co^d be apply'd to in time. It is now a Year and a half since I have had any Money sent me from Rhode Isle Colony.

This may also acquaint thee that I have apply'd again to the L^{ds} Committee of Council for a Grant of some Stores for yo^r Fortification agreeable to the

Colonys Request some Years since in their Address to the King,¹ on w^{ch} I had formerly obtained a favourable Report from the Lords of Trade, but since that time had layn dormant 'till now; and upon my renewing the Solicitation to the s^d L^{ds} of the Council, have obtain'd an Order of Reference (a Copy whereof is inclosed) to the Board of Ordinance for their Report and Estimate, and that I hope I shall have in 2 or 3 Weeks time. when that is done I have an Expectation given me of its beeing with the other usual Estimates layd before the Parliam^t the beginning of the next Sessions; but thou must Suppose it will be attended with some Expence, more of this in my next.

As to publick News, the War carry'd on with Vigour still almost on all sides especially in Germany, Bohem^a and Italy.² Our Army indeed in Flanders are broke up to go into Winter Quart^{rs} without effecting much this Campain. the King of Prussia as Auxilliary to the Emperor against the Qu: of Hungary pushes on his Conquests in Bohem^a having in a very little time taken Prague the Capital of that Kingdom, but Prince Charles has got together a Numerous Army and expects dayly to be joyn'd by a good Number of the King of Polands Forces; is now within a few Leagues of the King of Prussia so that a Vigorous general Battle between 'em is soon expected. its thought that the King of Naples whose Queen is Daughter to the King of Poland has agreed to a Nutrality wth the Qu: of Hungary or at least to

¹ See the address to the King on p. 15, and letter of December 1, 1735.

² See note to Partridge's letter of February 23, 1744.

a Suspension of Arms, and that our Fleet in the Mediteraⁿ will forbear Committing any hostilitys by bombarding of Naples as once was doubtless intend'd; and this is supposed to be principaly owing to the King of Polands Interposition in fav^r of his Daughter; He himself having lately come into an Alliance with the King of Engl^d and the Qu: of Hungary.

As to the Naval War we hear but of few of our Ships taken by the Spaniards but more by the French; yet as we have abundance of privateers out, besides our Men of War I am apt to think our Losses are scarce one fifth part in comparison of w^t are taken from the French, for the rest I refer to the Prints which I send by the Convey^a and remain with due Respects to thyself and the Gentlemen of the Council

Thy Assured Friend

RICH^D PARTRIDGE

31 ditto

Since writing the foregoing a Motion has been *made before the Lords Committee of Council for a day to be fixed of hearing of our Affair of the Boundary and they have Appointed the 6: of next Month for it, upon which I have paid £42, for the Attor^y and Soll^r Gen^l fees with their Briefs, so that the Ball^a of the Colonys Acco^{ts} is already £299. 16. 10 Sterl^g in my favour and its tho^t it will take up 3 Sittings of the Lords Committee before it is over, and then the Bll^a will still be considerably more besides Council office ffees &c^a

As for further Publick News the Emp^r has retaken Bavaria his hereditary dominions, or g^{tr} part of it

from the Queen of Hungary w^{ch} I take to be the Consequence of the King of Prussias late Conduct in invading her Domin^s in Bohemia, but upon Prince Charles's entring that Kingdom wth a powerfull Army the s^d King retreated back towards Prague whereupon sev^l places he had taken are now retaken for the Queen together wth a great many Prussians Officers and Soldiers, and Prince Charles has follow^d him pretty close being now joyned wth abo^t 24000 Saxons from the King of Poland, and its expected a decissive Battle will soon happen.

Frieburg a Strong Fortified Town of the Queen of Hungarys has been beseiged for some time by the ffrench King where in he has lost abundance of Men and it's tho^t he will be at last obliged to turn the Seige into a Blockade, the Season being so far advanced.

Coni (a place of great Consideration in Ittaly belonging to the King of Sardinia our ally) and w^{ch} is an inlett into the whole Country of Piedmont has been for some time beseigd by the Spaniards and ffrench,* holds out resolutely, and its confirmd now that the Seige is Actually raised and their fforces withdrawn to their great Damage and Mortification.

R.^D PARTRIDGE

9^{ber} 13:

Since the foregoing I have obtained a Copy of the Office of Ordinance of Report and Estimate of the Cannon and Stores for Rh^d Island¹ before mentioned a Copy whereof comes herewith so that I

¹ See the following document.

think we are in a fair way of procuring them: the late Address from the Colony I recd per Dep: Governour but the 7th Inst, whereby it will appear that I was mindfull of this Affair in due time before it came to hand. we have had one hearing about the Boundaries and I am going up this Evening to a Second hearing when perhaps it may be ended and will defer an acco^t of this Issue to my next

R P.

To WILL^M GREEN Esq^r

Governour and Commander in Chief of the
Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF ORDNANCE TO HIS GRACE THE
DUKE OF MONTAGU.¹

My Lord,

Your Grace having been pleased to referr to us and to require our opinion upon an Order made by the Right Honble the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation affairs, dat^d the 20th ultimo in the following words —

“Whereas there was this day read to their Lordships the Petition of Richard Partridge agent for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, humbly praying for the reasons therein contained that a supply of Twenty Cannon compleat from 18 to 24 pounders with fifty rounds of shott for each Gun and other Stores proper for them may be sent to that Colony to compleat the Number requisite to

¹ Enclosed in preceding letter.

furnish the fort they have built at their own Expence, The Lords of the Committee this day took the said petition into Consideration together with a report of the Lords Commissioners for Trade and Plantations upon a former Application of the like Nature made by the present Petitioner and are hereby pleased to referr the said Petition and report (Copys whereof are hereunto annexed) to His Grace the Duke of Montagu master General of the ordnance to Consider thereof, and in Case he has no objection thereto, that then he do cause an Estimate to be prepared of the Expence thereof and report the same to this Committee.

W. SHARPE."

We have accordingly my Lord taken the same into Consideration, and beg leave to report to your Grace that as we have no Plan or Profil of their Fort we are not competent Judges whether the Number and Nature of Guns demanded are either proper sufficient or necessary for the same.

That it does not appear from the Books of this Office that Rhode Island has ever been supplied with ordnance or Military Stores of any kind whatsoever, and as their Fort can be of no Use, and the Expence they are said to have put themselves to will be to no purpose unless they are furnished with a supply of Guns and Stores We have therefore drawn out the inclosed proportion necessary for Twenty pieces of ordnance of the Natures demanded the Charge of which will amount to one Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve Pounds fourteen Shillings but we have no money allotted for this Service, nor any Fund out of which the Expence can be

defrayed if it should be thought proper to grant this
Supply We are My Lord

Your Graces most obedient and most hble Servant

W. R. EARLE

THO. LASCELLES

GEO. GREGORY

OFFICE OF ORDNANCE 23^d October 1744.

His Grace the Duke of Montagu master General
of his Majestys Ordnance

*Estimate of Military Stores for Rhode Island.*¹

A Proportion of Stores Necessary for the Following Iron Ordnance demanded for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations prepared in Consequence of an Order of reference from the Lords of the Committee of Council for Plantation Affairs dated 20th Sep^r 1744.

			£	s
Iron Ordnance	{ 24 Pounders	8	920	—
	{ 18	12		
Oak standing Carriages with	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	8	258	—
2 p ^r	{ 18	12		
Iron Trucks 1 Bed 1 Corner	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	6 ^{ls} 6 ^{ps}	10	— 6 —
hadlass and Spunges . . .	{ 18	8		
Round Shott.	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	400	100	— 3 — 6
	{ 18	600		
Tampeons	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	16	2	— 2 —
	{ 18	24		
Hormers	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	1		
	{ 18	1		
Cured Paper Cartridges . .	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	400	5	—
	{ 18	600		
Copper powder measures . .	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	1	18	— 6
	{ 18	1		
Wadhooks with Rammers . .			1	— 5 —

¹ Enclosed in letter of October 12, 1744.

Wadhooks with Rammers for	{ 24 Po ^{rs}	4	} 18 — 5 —
Staffs Spunges	{ 18	6	
Staves		10	
Apron of Lead		20	} 6 — 13 — 4
Corn powder		Nil	
Match		10	
Powder Horns		10	} 7 — 17 —
Priming Irons		20	
Handspikes		40	
Iron Crows of 4½ feet		6	} 20 —
Linstocks without Cocks		10	
Budge Barrels Copper Hooped		2	
Handscrews large		2	} 1 — 11 — 8
Sling Cart compleat		1	
Sheep skins doz — odd 1:		6	
Spunge tacks		800	} 13 —
Copper Nails		80	
Tryangle Gun		1	
Iron Gun Blocks with brass Shivers	{ Treble	1	} 445 — 10 —
	{ Double	1	
White Rope of { 5 In ^t faths ^a .		11	
	{ 3½ fath .	22	} £1312 — 14 —
Tarr'd marlin		Scains .	
		4	
Lanthorns	{ Muscovy	2	}
	{ Ordinary	6	
	{ Dark	4	
Freight and Incidents on 99 Tons at £4: 10s			
per Ton			

THE DUKE OF MONTAGU TO THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.¹

My Lord —

In obedience to the order of Council of the 20th Sep^r last I send your Lordship inclosed the Report of the principal officers of the ordnance to me upon the Petition of Richard Partridge agent for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations with an Estimate of the Charge of the Guns and Stores demanded for the defence of that Colony, in

¹ Enclosed in letter of October 12, 1744.

which I agree with them, all which is humbly Submitted by My Lord

Your Lordships most obedient and most hble servant

MONTAGU

6th Nov: 1744

To Rt. Honble Lord President of the Council.

JOSIAH WILLARD TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

Sir

With the Advice of the Council His Excellency Governour Shirley has been pleased to Issue his Proclamation, a printed Copy whereof is herewith sent you, against a Number of Notorious Disturbers of the King's Peace, who lately Committed a very heinous Riot in Bristol¹ within this Province; promising a Reward to any person that shall discover and apprehend such of them particularly mentioned therein as shall not Submit and Surrender themselves to the Justice of the Government. Some of them it is known have absconded and fled into places within your Colony, and tho' sensible of their grievous Offence, would, during their residence in your Government as in a place of Safety, Capitulate with this Government. It is to be hoped they will see it to be for their own Benefit and Safety as well as for the publick Peace, for them to come in and

¹ Bristol, it will be remembered, lay within the debatable land which was claimed by both Massachusetts and Rhode Island. In the Assembly of March, 1745, it was voted to write the secretary of Massachusetts "that we know none of those rioters being within this colony." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 107; see also letter of March 7, 1745.

Submit to Justice, if not, yet such is the Nature of their Offence and so Subversive in its Tendency of His Majesty's Government in all these his Colonies, that they will not (We assure our selves) be skreened and Countenanced by any in Authority in your Government. And I am therefore directed to write these to Your Honour and to desire you will give Orders to Proper Officers to Deliver such Offenders to lawful Authority within this province, this is Expected by the Government here, for that the Peace and Welfare of the King's Province and Colonies in General Depends on such a Proceedure in all Cases of like Nature. I am Sir

Your most Obedient, Humble servant

JOSIAH WILLARD Secretary.

BOSTON Oct: 18. 1744.

To the Honourable WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

S^r

Yours dated the 8th Day of May 1744 with the Bill presented to prevent the Issuing Bills of Credit in the British Colonys is come to Hand¹ very lately being as we suppose retarded by the Ships waiting for Convoy. But not with standing You can not have any Instructions from the Government reach You by the approaching Sessions of Parliament, we nevertheless so far confide in Your Care of and Fidelity to the Good of the Government and the Preserva-

¹ See note to Partridge's letter of that date.

tion of its Priviledges, as to believe You will leave Nothing undone that is in Your Power to do by soliciting and procuring the best of Council to preserve the same.

We have before us now the aforesaid Bill about the Paper Currency and have voted and ordered £550 Pounds Sterling to be remitted to You forth with, and there is no Doubt but You will have it done with all the Care and Expedition possible; so that in the mean Time it is expected no Expençe Care or Pains will be wanting in opposing any Attempt made against our Charter. And You may depend that as Occasion serves the Government will be willing at all Times to be at any Necessary Charge to support their Priviledges which they esteeme too valuable to be given up without Defence. Especially since the Consequence wou'd not be the Loss of Our Former Priviledges solely, but so sudden a Change as that Bill wou'd cause in this Constitution must necessarily work The Ruin of many of the Inhabitants of the Colony.

The Design of the General Assembly is to let You know the mind and Resolution of the Government in this Point and not to state the Case relating [to] our Charter Priviledges which wou'd afford matter to copious for a Letter. But it can not but be observed, in general, that if His Majesty's Predecessor by the Charter granted to the Colony gave away part of His Prerogative, or in other Terms conveyed it into another Channel, it is strange that an Attempt shou'd be made in a Parliamentary Way to fix that Power immediately in His Majesty at the

same Time the Grant remains good and unaltered. And we can not think but that if the Method of Proceeding now in Hand (which appears not to be first moved by the Parliament of England, but by some Enemies of our Constitution) be opposed in a proper manner, it will from the Nature of the Proceeding and the Inconsistency and Arbitrariness thereof be rejected; since if this Bill pass, by the same Rule every Priviledge contained in the Charter may be voted away in Parliament, notwithstanding the Grant stands in its original Strength, which is contrary to the English Constitution in every Instance of this Nature from the lowest Things to the Matters of the Highest Nature and Consequence. And by the Plain Letter of this Bill all Governments in the Plantations wou'd be (or be liable to be) circumstanced alike whether Charter Governments or not, and be their Priviledges ever so different. And no Government that is incorporated by a Charter and the Inhabitants have been born and lived and flourished under those Priviledged wou'd be so supine as to suffer them to be Taken away without defending them. Therefore when this Attempt is carried on or any other shall be framed or made against the Priviledges of this Colony, in whatever shape the same may appear it is expected and insisted on that You do from Time to Time fee able and good Council and oppose the same with the Utmost Care Wisdom and Skill. And if any Thing be done in Parliament that militates against Our plain Charter Priviledges for want of a due Hearing, The contrary of which we hope for, it is not doubted but that by a proper

Address, that just and wise Body will set every Thing right.

We apprehended that the aforesaid Sum wou'd be sufficient for the present, and as we expect You will on all Occasions inform us of the State of Affairs at Home as to this Colony; so You may expect that as Necessity shall call for it we shall not be wanting in Our supplies for the Preservation of Our Right.

Signed by Order of the Gen^l Assembly

P. S. The one hundred and fifty Pounds which was ordered for the Carrying on the affair of the Boundery will be immediately remitted to you And we expect that you will push on that Affair in such a Manner as to get the same determined as soon as may be.

Nov^r 3^d 1744

To the House of Mag^{ts}

Gen^t Resolv'd that the aforewritten Draught be approv'd of and that three fair Copies thereof be signd by his Hon^r the Gov^r and Sent in three Different Vessells to the Agent as soon as may be

Voted and past

per Ord^r

J LYNDON Clerk

Concurr'd with

per ord^r

JAS MARTIN Secry

Reported by

JAMES ARNOLD	} Com ^o
D UPDIKE	
GEO BROWN	

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 9^{ber} 3^d 1744.*Gov^r. Green*

I have of the 12 and 31st ult wrote thee at large by this Conveyance to w^{ch} I refer, this serves now to bring the the above Copy of notice I have received from the Clark of the Council for the Hearing of our Cause of the Boundarys the 6th Inst. our Counsel are feed and have their Briefs to prepare for it.

Cap^t. Cary being not yet gone gives me the opportunity of writing this and of sending thee the inclosed prints from

Thy lo: Fr^dR^D. PARTRIDGE

To Governour GREEN

COUNCIL OFFICE WHITEHALL.
the 1st of November 1744.

The Right Honourable the Lords of the Committee of Council for hearing Appeals from the Plantations having appointed to meet in the Council Chamber at the Cockpit Whitehall on Tuesday the 6th of this Instant at six of the Clock in the Evening to hear the Appeal of the Colony of Rhode Island against the Province of the Massachusetts Bay, and also the appeale of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay against the Colony of Rhode Island relating to the Boundarys — These are therefore to give Notice to all Partys therein concerned that they come prepared to be heard by their Counsel learned in the Law at the said time.

JA: VERNON.

Copy mentioned above.



RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON xber the 11. 1744

Gov^r. Green

This just comes to acquaint thee that our Boundary Cause with the Massach^{ts} depending before the Lords Committee of Council was this Evening determined after a Hearing of 4 Sittings of the Committee w^{ch} was learnedly argued by the Counsel on both Sides, and upon the whole the Lords Confirmd the Judgment of the Commission^{rs} intirely without any variation, w^{ch} I hope will be satisfactory to the Colony: Our Counsel insisted Strenuously upon a further demand and I find it was not without some difficulty and debating that the Lords come in to fix it as they have done, the L^d Ch: Justice wills being strongly in our favour: and I do assure thee unwaried Pains has been used and no Cost has been Spared on our Side — on which Success I heartily congratulate our Colony.

the Bill in Parliam^t about Paper Currency not yet proceeded upon but don't doubt but it will be taken up in 3 or 4 weeks time and hope the Colony will be speedy in their Remittances to enable me to effectuate their Affairs.

it is now 10 o'clock at night and I have not time to [word torn out] So remain with due respects to thy self and the Gentlemen [of] the Council and House of Representatives from

Thy assured Friend

R^d PARTRIDGE

TO WILLM GREEN Esq^r:

Governor of the Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT December 12 1744

Mr. Partridge,

Inclosed We send You a Bill of Exchange for one hundred Pounds sterling which together with Sixteen Ounces of Gold Dust We send You by this Conveyance, is on the Colony's Acc^t to defray the Charge arising on the Boundary Dispute, You have also now inclosed duplicates of the Petition to his Majesty to obtain some Cannon for the Colony, and of a Letter to Thomas Corbet Esq^r Secretary to the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords of the Admiralty and a Letter from Gov^r Green¹ in which You will find the Sentiments of the Assembly relating to the Bill now in Parliament to prevent future Emissions of paper Currency in the Plantations You are to deliver the Petition to his Majesty if the former of which this is a Copy has not been with You and presented already and the Letter to M^r Corbet as soon as possible, We wish these safe to Hand and are

Your assured Friends

¹ The letter was probably that of November 3, referred to by Partridge in the next letter. None of the enclosures here mentioned are now in the archives.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO DEPUTY-GOVERNOR WHIPPLE.¹

LONDON X^{ber}. 15th 1744

Loving Friend Joseph Whipple

This comes to Acquaint Thee that our Cause of the Boundaries which has been so long depending with the Province of the Massach^{ts} Bay was on the 11 Ins^t brought on at a 4th Hearing before the Lords Committee of Council and finally concluded after 3 other Hearings before that, had been had by Council Reared in the Law.²

The Lords Pres^t were the Earl of Pembroke, Lord Sandys, L^d Chief Justice Willes and S^r Jn^o Rushout, Our Counsel beeing the Attorney and Solicitor Generall and on their side were Councillors Noel and Hume Campbell.

The Pleadings began by their Counsel who I think made the very most of their Cause objecting against the Judgement of the Comm^{rs} particularly in that they refused to order a Survey (when insisted on) of the Bounds of New Plim^o Colony, and Argued strenuously on the Validity of the Patent of that Colony as Prior to the Rhode Island Charter, but that which I apprehended they relied most on, was a Plan of the Colony of Rhode Island sent over here to the Lords of Trade by our Govern^r in the Year 1720 and certified under the Govern^{rs} own hand, suggest^s that it was a true Map of the Colonys whole Boundaries

¹ Whipple was a prominent merchant of Newport, elected deputy-governor in 1743, 1746, 1751, and 1753. His failure in the depreciation crisis of 1753 was the cause of the first bankruptcy act in Rhode Island, passed for his special relief. See Weedon, *Economic and Social History of New England*, II, 676, and *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 378.

² The case for appeal was sent to Partridge in April, 1742. See letter of April 21.

on occasion of the Controversy then with Connecticut,¹ and that in that Plan the Boundaries with the Massach^{ts} were also laid down and therein described no otherwise than what the Massach^{ts} now Claimed (or to this purpose) well hoping this wou'd have been of great Service to them, and procured One of the Clerks of the Bo^d of Trade to attend at the Hearing with it, But this did not stand them in any stead for the Lords Committee (upon the Arguments urged by our Counsel against it as beeing unprecidental in Appeals) woud by no means permitt it to be produced as any sort of Evidence, in as much as it had not been exhibited before the Comm^{rs}, neither was it in the Proceedings, and so rejected it. And as to the Priority of Plimouth Patent the Lord Chief Justice intimated that the Patent was only from Council of Plym^o and not from the Crown, and that one Corporation cou'd not grant Jurisdiction to an other Corporation &c^a. As to our Counsel both the Attorney and Solicitor Gen^l pleaded our Cause excellently well, answering the Objections of their Counsel, setting forth the Inconsistancy of the Massach^{ts} Claime, the impossibility of reconciling the Western Boundaries of Plym^o Patent according to Sense or Reason as described in their Grant, (if even the Power of Jurisdiction had been allowed them) and that a great deal of their Pleadings or pretensions were mere Amusements to puzzle and Confound the Judgements of their Lordships—a great deal of the Evidence on both sides were produced and read out of the proceedings which took up much of the time and

¹ For an account of the Connecticut boundary, see p. xxii of the *Introduction*.

was the Cause of Spinning out the Tryal to that length.

When the pleadings of the Counsel on both Sides were over, we were ordered to withdraw; and in about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an hour afterwards when the Lords Committee had Consulted together and Debated upon the Meritts they concluded to Dismiss both appeals and to Confirm the Judgement of the Comm^{rs} which puts an entire end to the Controversy and fixes the Boundaries for ever;¹ this I make no doubt when it comes to be duly Considered will be acceptable to the Colony, on which Success I heartily congratulate them. I wou'd Observe that during the Interval of the proceedings here many Observations were made in Writing on our side with further Instructions for our Counsel as an Addition to their first large Brief, which to be sure was of very great Service to our Cause, and to Demonstrate the Diligence that was used I shall send a Copy of them hereafter for the Assemblys Satisfaction, not Doubting but that they will approve of the Application and Industry therein tho' the Cause had unavoidably been attended with Delay.

And I assure myself that the House will readily grant me the necessary Supplys (if not done before this comes to hand) as well to defray the Expence of this late Suit (on which there is a large Ballance due to me) as to enable me in their behalf to carry on their other Affairs yet depending here, particularly in Parliam^t w^{ch} I have some time since wrote to the

¹ The boundaries were not finally determined until May, 1746. See Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 133, 134, and p. xxiv of the *Introduction*.

Gov^r and Dep. Gov^r about. That Matter which is the Bill concerning Paper Currency in the Plantations, is not yet taken up in the House of Commons, but I think it certainly will be shortly: when ever it is I intend to Assert the Rights and Privilidges of the Colony, and be Assured that no Endeav^{rs} nor Money needfull shall be wanting in serving the Colonys Interest to the best of my Ability.

And now I woud just Intimate that the late Govern^r John Wanton in his Letter to me of the 1st December 1735 was pleased to give me an Assurance of the Assemblys Benevolence towards me when the Boundary Cause was over;¹ I shall theretofore make bold just to remind them of It; and leave it to their Generosity—a Copy of which Letter comes inclosed the Clause beeing marked in the Margin, and which Doubtless will be found amongst thee Records of Letters in that Govern^{rs} time.

One thing more I think I may with Truth say that the Affairs of Rhode Island Colony under my Care depending has of late Years been as much or more than I have had to do for the Province of Pennsylvania who allow me £100 Sterling a Year Clear of all Charges. With Due Respects to the Gentlemen of the House I remain

Their Faithful Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

As soon as we can get out the Order of the King in Council under the privy Seal upon the Resolution

¹ See letter of December 1, 1735.

and Determination of the Lords Committee I shall send it over to Gov^r Green

Xber 18

P S The War continues and I think likely to do, tho' some imagine we shall have a peace by the Spring: we have had a pretty deal of damage done to the Shipping lately by Stormy Weather.

the King of Prussia who had broke out again agst the Queen of Hungary has now quitted Prague and all Bohemia and gone home with the loss of about half his Army and a part of the Q. of Hungary's forces has entered Siletia and probably will retake it. Cap^t Jephson is here and I suppose intends home as soon as conveniently he can, he has been taken by the ffrench and as he was coming for France in a S^t Dominga Ship was taken in her by one of our Men of War.

R P

I write this to Plym^o at a venture

To JOSEPH WHIPPLE Esq^r

Deputy Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON xber the 27. 1744

Governour Green

Yesterday I received thine of the 3 of Novem^r last and duly noted the contents. I see the Colony are

sensibly touched with the attempt lately made in Parliam^t on the Priviledges of their Charter by the Bill relating to Paper Currency which to be sure very nearly affects it, and that besides the £150.¹ sometime since granted me have voted and ordered £550.² Sterling more to be remitted me with all the care and Expedition possible for w^{ch} I make gratefull acknowledgm^{ts}, and Shall be expecting it soon accordingly, in the meantime I shall exert myself in behalf of the Colony to my utmost for their Interest w^{ch} I have at heart, and they may be assured that no Cost nor Pains shall be wanting therein, we being furnished as I apprehend with a great deal of good Argum^t for opposing the Bill. it still lays dormant in the House of Commons and nothing done in it this Sessions but I expect it will be taken up in the House when the Parliam^t meets again (Sometime next month) they being now adjourned to the 10th and began their Session the 16. of the last month.

I have already advised thee of the Issue of our Boundary Cause with the Massachusetts by the Lords Committee of Council,³ which was determined by conferring the Judgement of the Comm^{rs} without any variation after a pretty hard Struggle. our Counsel indeed in the Course of their Pleadings insisted on a further enlargem^t of the Boundarie for us, as they were Instructed, but that wo^d not be granted, yet what we have got I hope will be acceptable to the Colony on which Success I congratulate them hope-

¹ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 79.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 97, and letter of November 3, 1744.

³ See letter of xber (December) 11, 1744.

ing for their approbation. for a more particular
acco^t of the Proceedings before the Lords Commit-
tee (w^{ch} held 4 Sittings before it was ended) I refer
to my Letter to the Assemly herewith Sent thee
for them, and remain with due Respects to thy self
and the Gentlemen of the Council

Thine and their ffaithfull Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

as for Pub. News I refer thee to the inclosed Print
and diverse and other sent thee in a Packett to my
Fr^d And^r Oliver of Boston to be forwarded by a
Private hand

TO WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT Dec^{br} 29th 1744

Mr. Partridge,

We hope that by this Time You have rec^d the In-
structions¹ from the Colony respecting the Bill now
in Parliament relating to Paper Currency and as the
Government are determined to vindicate their Privi-
ledges which they think that Bill should it pass into
a Law would abridge them of, You shall therefore
[receive] for that Purpose by this Opportunity in
his Majesty's Ship the Eltham Cap^t Philip Durell
Command^r One Hundred and fifty Ounces of Gold
Dust, One of the Bills of Lading for the same You

¹ See letter of November 3, 1744.

will have inclosed to You from M^r Stephen Greenleaf of Boston by Whom from hence We have ordered it to be Shipp'd on board and referr You to the abovesaid Instructions and are

Your Assured Friends

Endorsed:

Copy of a Lett^r to the Agent.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.¹

BOSTON Jan^y 29 174 $\frac{1}{2}$

Sir,

Tho' I doubt not but that the Interest of the Common Cause of New England will sufficiently animate your Governm^t to exert themselves Vigorously in the Intended Expedition ag^t Louisbourg;² yet I would beg leave to add that the Exposd situation of your Colony by sea, and the resentment of the Enemy ag^t it, on acc^t of the activeness of your privateers make it particularly probable that you may have a sudden Visit from the French this summer, if Cape Briton is not reduced

The Gentlemen, who deliver this, will apprise your Honour how essential it is towards our succeeding in this Important Affair, that we should have a Naval force before Louisburg by the beginning or Middle of March at furthest to cut off the Enemy's Provision

¹ Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 74.

² For an account of the part taken by Rhode Island in the Louisbourg expedition, see p. xxviii of the *Introduction*. Shirley's plan is given at length in his *Memorandum*, which follows this letter.

Vessells and intercept Mr Duvivier, who is expected abt that time wth Recruits for the Garrison, w^{ch} latter Event must be so killing a blow to the People of the Town and Garrison, that it could not fail of being decisive; and they will also let you know what this Governm^t has done, and what Applications I have made towards providing such a Naval force; I hope therefore you will not fail Exert yourself in this respect. They will further inform you how necessary it is that we should have a proper Train of Artillery w^{ch} should be four pieces of 18 p^d Shot to 24 p^d, of w^{ch} sort we have not sufficient in our Castle, and I therefore hope you will contribute your Quota also in this respect.

I doubt not but our united force vigorously exerted upon this Occasion in conjunction wth his Maj^y's other Neighbouring Colonies will greet wth success, w^{ch} I hope will be the Event of this Expedition and am Sir,

Your Honour's most Obedient Humble servant

W SHIRLEY.

Hon^{ble} Gov^r GREEN.

Memorandum for an Attack upon Louisburg.¹

In Order for the Attacking of Louisbourg this Spring by Surprise, Its proposed that 3000 Troops should Embark from hence in Sloops and Schooners and proceed for Canso, well Arm'd, which should be the place of Rendezvous, it being within 20 Leagues of Louisbourg, and its being uncertain that so many Vessels should be Able to keep Company together; when they

¹ Enclosed in Shirley's letter of January 29, 1745.

are all Arrived at said Port to take a favourable Opportunity to Sail from thence in Order to be at Galberous Point by Dusk from whence it is but 3 Leagues from Louisburg then to Push into the Bay and as soon as said Vessels are at an Anchor to Mann as many Whaleboats as they have and Send them along the Shore as near as possible which will make it the more Difficult for them to be discovered, and when they come to the Cove which faces the low part of the Wall there to Land if the Sea will permit and Scale that place if possible and if otherwise, as the Wall breaks off a little, on the other Side of the East Gate. not far from that there are Pickets put for a Considerable Distance across a Pond over to the Wall on the Beach on the other Side of the Pond, and as this Pond is frozen all the Month of March its not very difficult to get over then, but if the Weather will not permit their Landing in the above place let them proceed along the Shore till they come to a long range of Rocks that goes towards the Island at the End of which is a Passage where the Shallops go thro', let them go in there and follow the Ledge of Rocks right back again, then they will Land right against the East Gate on a point and as there are some Houses there it will hinder their being Seen, but One Boat ought to go first and Surprise the People in those Houses a little time before the others come up. Each Whaleboat must have two Ladders in them of Fifteen feet long which may be put in the Middle of the Boat without hindrance to the Men, but the Boatmen must lay still at this point till they think the Main Body is got near the Town, And that a Party of as many Men as shall be Judg'd proper shall be ready to Attack the Grand Battery. Its Necessary it should be low Water if no Drift Ice aground along the Shore for the Remainder of the Men to go round the Pickets that are by the North Gate and when they get round with Ladders of 15 feet long they can Scale the Wall facing the Harbour which is a Quarter of a Mile round, and [it] will be Absolutely Necessary to appoint a time to Strike the Blow all at Once which can be done by Agreeing upon a Certain hour just before Day which is the Sleepiest time, and the Commanding Officer of each Detachment to know the time, and when the time comes, by his Watch to begin without any further Ceremony, The Enemy finding themselves Attack'd at so many different places at Once its probable

that it will breed such Confusion among them that Our Men will have time to get in Unmolested, it is to be Observed that as the Men March from the above point the low Wall is on the left hand of the Gate and the Pickets on the right hand ; as all the Enemys Troops are in the Citadel except a Small Guard or two it will be a Considerable time before those Men are Drest and got ready to March out and even then it is quite in the other End of the Town.

This is what probably may Succeed but least any Accident should happen to prevent it, it will be Necessary to provide accordingly, And in Case Our People should be discovered and Repulsed, the above Number of Men being Sufficient to Command the Field, it will be Necessary in Order to reduce the place to have what Shipping can be possibly got to Cruize off the Harbours Mouth to Intercept their Provision Vessels which they expect Early being at this time very short of Provisions, as likewise to take any Transports with Men if any should come, and that Our Men may not be Discouraged at being repulsed Once it will be Necessary to Send 12 Nine Pounders and Two Small Mortars with Shells &c. and a Quantity of Provisions so to Bombard them and Endeavour to make Breaches in their Walls and then to Storm them, and should the Shipping be so lucky, to take their Provisions, and the Land forces take all their Cattle and keep them Constantly Employ'd, it will be impossible for them to hold the place till the last of July for want of Provisions.

In Order the better to Secure the Retreat in Case a Superiour Naval Force to Ours should come from France and drive Ours off the Coast and We not take the place which I do not think there is any danger off, it will be Necessary to leave Two Small Vessels with about Two Hundred Men at Canso and the Day after the Fleet is Sailed for Louisbourg for them to Sail so as to get in by Night and it being but Six Leagues from Canso to S, Peters they can get there before Day and Surprize that place which is an exceeding good Harbour for Small Vessels but has not Water Sufficient for Vessels of that Size which will be able to drive Ours off the Coast, so that the Vessels for the Retreat will lay there Safe and the Troops be Able to go to them by Land, there will be an Advantage besides this in Surprizing this

place as there is always a Number of Indians with their Familys which keep with a French Priest at a Small Distance from the French Inhabitants and the Booty taken there will pay the Expence and more in taking it, it is to be Observed that during the time that Our Troops lay Siege to the Town it will be in their power to Send Partys and Destroy all their Fishery on the Island, as well as the North Side of the Harbour, w^{ch} would ruin Their Fishery for Four or Five Years and as it is impossible to fail of taking the Royal Battery at least, that would in a great Measure lay open their Harbour Expos'd unto an Attack by Sea from England, as the New Batteries in the Town in the greatest part of the Ambrozers there are no Guns and there are two Gates that are made in Diamond Fashion facing the Harbour that can be beat down in an Instant, the peices not being but 2 Inches and a half thick.

N B The full Complement of the Troops is 700, out of which Deductions must be made of 50 for each of the two Batterys Vizt. The Royal and Island Batterys and 50 for Death Sickness &c. which Reduce them to 550, and the Other Fighting Men in the Town do not exceed 300. and that the Swiss Troops which are their best Troops are exceeding Discontented and mutinous, also that at S^t Peters there may be about 200 Men in Scatter'd Houses and in the Suburbs of the Town of Louisburg without the Walls about 200. It is improbable that more than two 30 or 40 Gunships Transports should come with M^r Duvivier who may be expected the first with Recruits and Supplies, and in Case the Naval Force that comes should be Superior to Our Naval Force, that Our 3000 Men would Command the Field and Continue so till they could be protected and reinforced from England.

Ex^d

N. B. It is a mistake to think that 9 pounders are sufficient to batter the Walls of Louisburg.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON January 29. 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.

S^r

This goes by Express to inform your Honour that Petitions haveing been prefer'd by a considerable Number of the Inhabitants of this Province to the General Court here representing the present weak State of Louisbourg, and the great Importance of the Reduction of that place to the Obedience of his Majesty; And a general Disposition Appearing in the People to engage in this Service, I recommended the deliberate Consideration of this Affair to the General Assembly, who by their Committee examined a great number of Persons, who have been Traders or Prisoners in that place, and have known it both in Peace and War, some of whom came from thence in the beginning of this Winter; This Examination which was had before a large Committee of both Houses has been so very critical and exact as to take up divers days in the prosecuting of it; The Result of which is a chearful and almost unanimous Resolution of the Court to undertake this important Business in such Manner as is perticularly Expressed in the Report of the Committee Accepted by the whole Court; which I herewith inclose;¹ and wherein you will find this Affair is undertaken by us in full Confidence and Expectation that all his Majesty's Governments in North America who are concerned in Duty and Interest as well as we, will readily join with us in so laudable [a] Design for

¹ See the following document.

the Honour of his Majesty, and the Safety of the Trade and Navigation of all those Colonies and Provinces; And our Expectation herein will Appear the more reasonable, if it be considered what Pains and Charge this Government hath been at alone for saving his Majesty's Interest at Annapolis Royal and in the Province of Nova Scotia;¹ I must therefore earnestly desire that all may be done that is possible to engage your Colony to do their full part in Concert with us for Carrying on this Expedition and that you either join us or soon follow us with a sufficient force both for the land and Sea Service; And as the Success of this Affair depends much upon Dispatch, I doubt not but you will use it: I have proposed to the Ministry in Great Britain the Undertakeing of this Design and earnestly urg'd it as of great importance to the Crown and the Safety of his Majestys Subjects in all these parts before I had any thoughts of the Thing's being Attempted in this way; And I shall now write Pressingly by the first Conveyances both to the Ministry at home and to the Commanders of the Squadrons in the West Indies to send a Naval force to meet us and support us in our Design: I have ordered an Imbargo of all Vessells whatsoever And have Seized all the Frenchmen among us, and have endeavoured to have them kept under such Safe Custody as to prevent them from sending any Intel-

¹ Upon Major Mascarene's representation of the danger threatening Annapolis, Shirley had induced the Assembly of Massachusetts to raise a company of two hundred men, who were sent to his relief. Hutchinson, *History of Massachusetts Bay*, II. 405. See Mascarene's letter, p. 265.

ligence: The same Measures will be Necessary (as I apprehend) in your Government.¹

I am sir

Your Honour's most Obedient, Humble servant

W SHIRLEY.

To The Hon^{ble} Governour GREEN

*Report of the Committee of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.*²

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY

The Committee of both Houses upon the Subject of his Excellency's Messages of the 19th and 22^d Instant make the following Report.

That they have been Attended by two Gentlemen who have lately been Prisoners at Louisburg and by others who have been Traders there and who are well acquainted with the Place, from whom the Committee have received Information that the Garrison there does not consist of more than five or Six Hundred Regular Troops and that there are not above three or four hundred fighting Men of the Inhabitants, That they have but a small Stock of Provisions, that they have no Vessels of Force in their Harbour, and that the Place is at this Time less capable of being defended against an Attack than its Probable, it will ever be hereafter.

The Committee therefore are of Opinion that it is incumbent upon this Government to embrace this Favourable Opportunity to Attempt the Reduction thereof: And they humbly Propose that His Excellency the Cap^t General be desired to give forth his Proclamation to Encourage the Enlistment of Three thousand Voluntiers under such Proper Officers as he shall appoint. That each Person so enlisting be allowed Twenty five Shillings per Month and that there be delivered to Each man a Blanket:

¹ See Governor Greene's letter to the House of Deputies, February 5, 1745.

² Enclosed in Shirley's second letter of January 29, 1745.

That one Month's Pay be advanced and that they be entitul'd to the Plunder. That Provision be made for the furnishing of necessary Warlike Stores for the Expedition. That four Month's Provisions be laid in. That a Committee be appointed to procure and fit vessels to serve as Transports to be ready to depart by the beginning of March, and that a suitable Naval Force be provided for their Convoy as this Court shall hereafter Order. That Application be forthwith made to the Governments of New York, Pensilvania, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island to furnish their respective Quotas of Men and Vessels to Accompany or follow the Forces of this Province.

In the Name and by Order of the Committee

W^M. PEPPERELL .

Resolution of the House of Representatives of Massachusetts.¹

PROVINCE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY

In the House of Represent^{ves} Jan^y 29. 174⁴.

Voted that Thomas Hutchinson Esq. be desired forthwith to repair to the Government of Rhode Island, and in the Name and behalf of this Government to do all in his Power to prevail on that Government or the Governour there to furnish and assist the intended Expedition against Cape Breton with as large a Land and Sea Force as possible, and that all imaginable Dispatch be given in this Affair.

GOVERNOR GREENE TO THE HOUSE OF DEPUTIES.

February 5th A D. 174⁴.

Gentlemen of the House of Deputies

The only Reson of my calling you together at this Juncture was an Express I Rec^d on the first of this

¹ Enclosed in Shirley's second letter of January 29, 1745.

Instant from his Excellency Gov^r Shirley,¹ concerning an Intended Expedition; against Louisburg; by which I am informed that province has already ordered a proclamation to be issued forth, with proper Incoragement for the Inlistment of three thousand Volunteirs to be ready to proceed upon the Intended Expedition, by the first of March next and his Excellency is pleased further to inform me that their General Court have ordered that Application shall be forthwith made to New York Pensylvania, New Hampshire, and Connecticut, as well as to this Colony for their assistance therein, and Earnestly desires that this Colony will do their full part or proportion both with men and Naval force, in Concert with them for Carrying on said Expedition, Either by joining their Forces, or soon following them, as You will see by the papers herewith presented.

Gentlemen.

I Recommend the whole affair to your wise Consideration, and doubt not but you will do every thing in this important affair that you in your wisdom shall judge most for the Honor and Interest of this Colony²

I am Gentlemen

Your Most Obedient Humble Servant

W. GREENE GOV^r

¹ See Shirley's two letters of January 29, 1745, with accompanying documents.

² For the proceedings of the Assembly in answer to Shirley's appeal, see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 100, 102; and also Greene's letter of February 8, 1745.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 12th month 6th day 1744.*Govern^r. Green*

I advised Thee some time since that a renewed Application had been made to the King in Council here pursuant to the Colonys former Address for Cannon and Stores for your Fortification and since that I reced from the Deputy Govern^r a Fresh Address on that Subject; I sent over a Copy of the Report of the Bo^d of Ordinance and Estimate some time since¹ which I hope has been received, and tho' I have not wrote much since if any thing at all about it, yet I have not been negligent in prosecuting the Application. I was sent for to attend the Lords Committee yesterday upon it who were desirous to inform themselves pretty fully about the State and Nature of the Case which I had a fair Opportunity to do and which I hope was in some measure Satisfactory; But in as much as the Board of Ordinance took Notice in their Report that they had no Plan nor Profile of the Fort, they were not competent Judges about it &c^a so the Lords of the Committee were not willing to do anything in it 'till such a Plan came over with a Certificate along with it (and as I apprehended) It shou'd be under the hands of the Govern^r and Surveyor, somewhat agreeable to the inclosed Paper sent herewith to thee as a Form to write by, let it also be inserted what N^o of Cannon you have already, which I have intimated to them was about 12 Old Ones almost unfitt for

¹ Enclosed in letter of 8ber (October) 12, 1744.

Service (as I was Informed) and 24 New Cannon which I sent over at the Cost of the Colony and also whereabouts it is intended to place these 20 Cannon now proposed to be sent You and how Accommodated. These things I find are requisite and when that is Done and sent me which sho^d be speedily, there seems to be Encouragem^t from the Lords Committee for the Colony to have their Request Granted. In the Course of the Application there was a necessity of Specifying the quantity of Cannon; as that was not mentioned in either of the Addresses — which was the reason of asking for 20 only, least the Demand shou'd have run too high in the Estimate.

12 month the 8th

Since the foregoing I have been surprised very much by being Inform'd by the Clerk of the Council that the Massachusetts Agent had presented a Petition to the Lords President against the Lords Committees Judgement¹ and Report upon our Hearings in the Cause of the Boundarys, desiring that before it was Confirmed by the King in Council something further might be considered upon it and praying for a Review that is in short for a New Commission to be Issued for a Rehearing beyond Sea, for they knew it was impossible to have it Reheard here and have got One of the Lords of the Committee to Countenance them as I am Informed — which is a thing hardly ever heard of before after such a Solemn hearing as has been in this Cause — and this they

¹ Against the judgment given in December, 1744, by which the decision of the Commission of 1741 was confirmed.

have Clandestinely and Artfully contrived to evade Justice, but we are preparing to be even with them if possible and hope we shall Render their Contrivances ineffectual. More of this in my next from

Thy Assured Friend

R^d PARTRIDGE

But this Opposition of theirs will run us to more Charge and no Remittance come yet

I wrote to thee also of the 14th and 16th ditto via New Castle

1st month or March 25th 1745

There has been no general Council held lately so that the Affair of the Lords Committees Judgm^t and Report concerning the Boundary Cause lyes as it did, but the Measures we have taken may probably end it in Soliciting most of the Lords of the Committee Seperately, particularly the Lord S—— whom I may call the Massach^{ts} advocate with whom I had a fair opportunity and a pretty deal of discourse wherein I endeavourd to take off the edge of the prejudice he had imbibed agst our Colony and set forth the unreasonableness and inconveniencys w^{ch} woud attend such a president as was Petitiond for by our Adversarys in Postponing their Lordships Report after Such a Solemn Hearing &c^a, and laid before the Lords Committee afterwards when they were sitting my Petition to them touching this Matter (a Copy whereof I have already Sent thee) and that I hope upon the whole we shall be able to baffle our Atagonists, however I intend to leave no stone unturned to do it.

As for the Paper Currency Bill depending in the House of Commons it lays dormant yet and nothing at all proceeded on hitherto.¹ the House have at present their hands full of business before them of more Moment, particularly that of the Miscarriage of the Sea Engagem^t with the French and Spaniards last years which they are very intent upon enquiring into the Cause of it by examining of Admiral Lestock and the Sea Officers.²

All the Powers at War are making great preparations this Spring for prosecuting the War, and its expected there will be actually War proclaimed between the French and the Dutch very Shortly. for the rest I refer to the Prints inclosed and those w^{ch} I send to And^r Oliver of Boston for thee and remain with Respects to thy Self and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Thine and their assured faithfull friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

the matter of Lockman lyes intirely dormant still. I shall be expecting from the Colony a Plan of their Fortific^a &c. for me the better to obtain the Cannon &c. I del^d Lord S——s when I was with him a Copy of that very good Letter which the Colony wrote to the Lords of Trade and Plantations of the 19. Jan^y 1740.³ for his Information of the State of Colonys Case as they are Circumstanced in general, w^{ch} I hope had a good effect, having heard nothing Since

¹ See letter of November 3, 1744.

² See note to letter of February 23, 1744.

³ See the document printed as of that date, on p. 131. Lord Sandys was the man whose interest it was desired to secure.

of his Stirring against us, but to be Sure he argued agst us before as if he had been retained as Counsel for the Massach^{ts} by what I was informed.

27th ditto

Since the foregoing I have obtained a Copy of the late long Petition of the Massach^{ts} Agent to the Lords Committee against their Judgm^t and Report of which I herewith send the a Copy where by thou wilt see their Artfull Contrivance; which Petition we Shall obviate if Possible in order to get it set aside but it may be some time yet do what we can for it has not yet been read before the Lords.

R P.

To WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR SHIRLEY.

WARWICK Feb^r 8th 1744

S^r

upon Receiving your Excellencies Letter¹ Concerning the Expedition against Louisburg I emediate^{ly} Called our Gen^l Assembly and Communicated the whole affare to them in the best Manner I and his Majesties Counsell Could, and M^r Hutchinson who Represented your province very presingly Urged the affare in our Lower house and after a long and Tedious Debate thereon they have ordered, 130

¹ Of January 29, 1745.

men to be Raised as Vollunteirs and our Country Sloop to be equiped¹ in ord^r to be ready to Join Your fources by the Sixth Day of march next, but have not ordered any land fources, notwithstanding the upper house Sundery times earnestly Insisted upon it

I am S^t Your Humble Servant

W^M GREENE

To his Exelency Gov^r SHIRLEY

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 12 month 9th 1744.

Gov^r. Green

Since I sent away my pack^t for thee of yesterday I found I had left out this paper on the other Side, w^{ch} I then intended to inclose, as something of a Form to be certified properly and tackd to the Plan of the Fort to be sent me. and inclosed is likewise a Copy of the order of the Lords Comittee² from

Thy assured Fr^d

R^D PARTRIDGE

To WILL^M GREEN Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 100.

² See Partridge's letter of February 6, 1745, and the two documents next following.

FORM OF A PETITION TO THE LORDS OF TRADE.¹

To the Right Honble the Lords Committee of his Majesties most Honble Privy Council for Plantation Affairs.

The Representation of the Gov^t and Compa: of His Majestys Colony of Rh^d Isl^d and Providence Plantations in America humbly Sheweth

That M^r Richard Partridge our Agent at the Court of Great Britain hath informed us that he hath again lately made Application to his Majesty in Council upon our humble Address to his Majesty for the Grant of a Number of Cannon towards compleating our Fortification which we have built at the Entrance of our Harbour of Newport in this Colony — and that your Lordships had been pleased to refer that matter to the Office of Ordinance for their Report and that a Report together with an Estimate had been thereupon made of 8 Cannon of 24 pounders, and 12 Cannon of 18 pounders with 50 Round of Shot and other Necessaries belonging thereto. But that in as much as a plan of our s^d Fortification was wanting and found Necessary to have been taken and sent over to your Lordships before any thing could be done in that behalf,

We do therefore represent to your Lordships that we have caused an Accurate plan of our said Fortification to be taken by a proper Surveyor certified by the Govern^r of our said Colony and the s^d Surveyor under our common Seal, which is hereunto annexed

The Cannon proposed for us by the said Estimate of which we have received a Copy from our said Agent are of a due Size and Justly proportion'd as well as the other things necessary belonging thereto.

We begg leave on this Occasion to lay before your Lordships our Dangerous Situation during this war time, laying open and Exposed to the Invasion of the Enemy more than almost any other Colony on the Continent and being a Frontier to the province of the Massachusetts Bay.

That we have laid out £10,000 of our Currency which makes

¹ Enclosed in Partridge's letter of 12 mo. (February) 9, 1745.

in Sterling between 3 and £4000 in erecting our Fort besides about Seven hundred pounds in the purchase of some great Gunns, which considering the smallness of our Colony has been a very great Burthen upon the Inhabitants

That the s^d Fort requiring at least 20 more Cannon with Stores proper for them, the Expence of which being more than this province can afford to lay out,

And as his Majesty has been pleased to Extend his Bounty to the Neighbouring Colonys perticularly to that large One of the Massachusetts Bay by granting 'em a Quantity of Cannon and Mortars amounting to about £4877,

It is therefore humbly prayed that your Lordships will be pleased to recommend the Distrest Case of this Colony to the King that we may not be Distinguisd as the only Colony to which his Majesty's Royal Bounty has not been extended.

AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER WHITEHALL ¹
the 5th Day of February 174⁵.

By a Committee of the Lords of his Majesty's most honourable Privy Council for Plantation Affairs —

The Lords of the Committee this Day took into Consideration a Report made by the Board of Ordnance on the Petition of Richard Partridge Agent for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations praying for a Supply of Canon consisting of eight 24 Pounders and twelve 18 Pounders with Shot and Stores Proportionable for the Protection and Defence of the said Colony. And their Lordships observing that the said Board have reported that as they have no Plan or Profit of their Fort they are not competent Judges whether the Number and Nature of Guns demanded are either proper, sufficient or necessary for the same, The Lords of the Com^{tee} do therefore hereby order that the s^d Agent write over for an exact Plan of the said Fort and that he do lay the said Plan before this Committee when he shall have received the same

W. SHARPE

¹ Enclosed in Partridge's letter of 12 mo. (February) 9, 1745.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 12 month the 14. 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.*Gov^r. Green*

My last to thee was of the 8th Inst¹ wherein I advised thee that the Massach^{ts} Agent had lodgd a Petition to the Lord Presid^t in order to Stop the Judgmm^t and Report of the Lords Committee for fixing the Boundary w^{ch} according to the Constant practice of Proceedings here I did not in the least doubt wo^d have soon been confirmed by the King in Council, but so it is and the said Petⁿ must now be read before the said L^{ds} Committee before any thing be further done upon it. w^{ch} Petition I hope will be rejected and that we may be even with our Oppon^{ts} and Counter plot them if we can; I have been at the Duke of Dorsets the new Presid^t and delivered a Petition and an other also to Lord Ch. Justice Willes, with whom I had a fair opportunity of informing him of the Artful and Clandestine Endeav^{rs} used by the Massach^{ts} in the Case, w^{ch} am in hopes we may Succeed in, however no stone shall be left unturnd in behalf of the Colony therein but it will be attended still with more Expence and no Remittances yet come to my hand. a Copy of my s^d Petition comes inclosed. from

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

Inclosed is also a Copy of the Estimate of the Board of Ordinance² and also of the Lords Committees order about the plan that is wanting mentiond in my s^d Letter of the 8th

¹ See p. 309.² These documents will be found on pp. 314, 315, respectively.

16th ditto

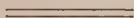
Since the above I have been with Lord Sandys (who was at most of the Committees when our Bound^a Cause was heard) and d'd him a Copy of my Petition above mentioned and talkd to him pretty fully on the affair w^{ch} I hope will be of Service to us.

R P.

As to Publick News it was expected that the death of the Emperor of Germ^a wo^d occasion consid^{ble} alterations in the face of Publick Affairs but what that will be I dont find any Body yet knows¹

To WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r:

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations



PETITION OF RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO THE LORDS OF THE
PRIVY COUNCIL.²

To the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords of the Com^{tes} of his Ma^{ty}s most Hon^{ble} Privy Council for hearing Appeals from the Plantations.

The humble Petition of Richard Partridge Agent for, and on Behalf of, his Maj^{ty}s Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Sheweth That, from the Date and Creation of the s^d very small Colony, it hath had a Contest, touching it's Eastern Boundaries, with their powerful Neighbours, of the great Province of the Mass^a Bay; Who, by their Might and Numbers, have encroached upon every Province, adjacent to them, (his Ma^{ty}s own province not excepted).

That, after numberless Attempts and an exceeding great Ex-
pence in order to settle the s^d Eastern Boundary, Rhode Isl^d in

¹ The Emperor Charles VII. died on January 20.

² Enclosed in letter of February 14, 1745.

April 1734. very near eleven years ago, was necessitated most humbly to petition his Ma^{ty} in Council to determine the s^d Boundary. on which Occasion, the Lords of Trade reported, on the 10th of May 1738 (amongst other things) that this Matter had been contested, at different times, ever since the year 1664. And their L^dShips also ment^d the Inconveniences that might arise, for want of a final Settlem^t, in the Matter.

That after every repeated Opposition, which the Mass^a cou^d possibly give, (some of w^{ch} were reported by this most Honble Board, frivolous and vexatious, and as such were dismiss^t, and w^{ch} appear^d to be such very extraordinary Applications, that they produc^d a new Regulation, at your Lordships Board, in Order to check such improper Applications for the future) upon the 4th of Sept^r 1740. his Ma^{ty}'s Commⁿ issued, under the great Seal, Authorising sundry Comm^{rs} to Adjust and determine the s^d Eastern Boundary, with Liberty to either Party to appeal, from the Comm^{rs} Determination, to his Ma^{ty} in Council.

That, on the 30th of June 1741. after many long, full and most expensive Hearings, the Comm^{rs} in America, made a Determination, and, after Time allowed, to consider thereof, the Mass^a Agents there, enter^d an Appeal to his Maj^{ty}, from the same, as likewise did Rhode Island, from several parts of the s^d Determination.

And, the Rhode Island Appeal from the s^d Determination, by Order in Co^{ll} of the 28th of July 1742, and the Mass^a Appeal, by another Order, of the 2^d of Sept^r following, were refer^d to the Consideration of Your Lordships, in the Ordinary and Common Course, as all other Appeals from the Plantations usually are, for a Judicial Determination.

That, after a great length of Time, and a most heavy Expence, the s^d Appeals came on, and were most solemnly heard by Yo^r Lordships, at four several long Hearings, upon the 6th 13th and 26th of Novem^r and the 11th of Decm^r now last. Upon which Hearings, yo^r Lordships were pleas^d to Affirm the Comm^{rs} Determination, made upon the Spot, and upon the many long Hearings which had been there without any Variation.

That, altho^o the same depriv^d Your Petitioners of more than Two Thirds of what they had before conceiv^d to belong to them, Yet they, (as they always did and will) hold themselves, bound

to Submit to your Lordships wise and equal Determination and never entertained a Thought of Doing otherwise.

That, your Lordships Report to his Majesty in Council, was accordingly drawn up, and Your Petitioners were exceedingly concerned, that several General Councils, shou'd successively pass, and Your Lordships Report not be layd in the Constant Method of Proceeding, before his Majesty in Council, for his Royal Pleasure thereon ; whereby this Dispute, of Fourscore Years Continuance, might at Length, be brought to a Period.

But, upon enquiring, with great Anxiety, into the Cause thereof, yo^r Petition^{rs} late on Wednesday Night, now last, received Information, that the Mass^a Bay had presented some Petⁿ to Stop Yo^r Lordships Report, made in Obedience to his Majestys several Orders of Reference.

That, your Petitioners are advised there is no such Instance, at any time before, upon all your Lordships Books, And are Wholly at a Loss to know, upon what Pretence, such an Application can be possibly founded, your Petition^{rs} not having so much as seen, or been acquainted with, the Purport of such Petition.

That, as your Petitioners most humbly conceive, this not only affects the Course of Justice, in Matters Judicially depending before yo^r Lordships on Appeals, but wou'd be, a precedent, of the most Dangerous Consequence, and wou'd render Yo^r Lordships Determinations Vain, and of no Import, after so much time, taken up therein ; Besides the grievous Expence and Inconveniences, that the keeping this matter open woud Occasion to yo^r Petiti^{ns} who are overpowered, by the Might and profusion of Expence, that the great Province of the Mass^a Bay, always launch out into (and necessarily put their Neighbors to) on every Contest for Extent of Power or Territory.

And, for as much, as it is the known and constant Method, of the Mass^a Bay, in every Instance before Yo^r Lordships, never to submit to any Determinaⁿ w^hsoever, but continually to oppose and Struggle against the same, in Order to weary out their Adverse Partys ; Of the Truth whereof, your L^dShips may please to be informed, of many Instances.

Your Petitioners most humbly pray Yo^r Lordships, that Yo^r Lordships Report, in these Appeals, may not be kept back, but

may be layd before his Ma^{ty} in Co^{ll}, for his Royal Pleasure thereon, in the same manner as, and according to, the Constant Course of Proceeding, in all other Judicial Appeals.¹

And Yo^r Petitioners shall ever pray &c^a

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON March 4. 1744.

Sir,

Not having been favour'd by you with an Answer to my Letter upon the Subject of the present Expedition against the French Settlements on Cape Breton and your uniting the Forces of the Colony under your Government with those of this Province in his Majesty's Service against the Common Enemy,² and being inform'd that your Assembly meets again this day, I take the liberty to renew my Instances to you in his Majesty's behalf upon this extraordinary Occasion.

I must acknowledge, Sir, when I consider'd what frequent and very large Emissions of Paper Bills of Credit your Assembly has of late made for the Conveniency of the Inhabitants of your Colony, and how exceeding light (if any) the Taxes of your Government are, I could not entertain the least Doubt but that it would have made *one* Emission for his *Majesty's*

¹ The petition of Massachusetts for a rehearing was, with this protest, referred to the Plantation Committee, and their final report, in April, 1746, rejected the Massachusetts petition, and reaffirmed the decision of the Commission of 1741.

² Evidently Greene's letter of February 8 had not reached the enthusiastic and zealous governor of Massachusetts. The Assembly voted to raise 150 men (see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 102), augmented the emission of £2,500 in bills of credit to £6,250, and passed an act offering 40 shillings bounty (in money of the old tenor) to each soldier who might enlist in the Massachusetts forces. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 102-106.

Service, and for the Support of the common Cause of the Colonies of New England, in which the Colony of Rhode Island has so great a Share of Interest, and more depending upon the Success of the Expedition than it ever had upon the Event of any Expedition since it has been a Colony; And that the Gentlemen of the Assembly would have been at least induc'd to have done so by the Example of this Government, and that of New Hampshire, (the latter of which I have an Assurance will have rais'd 350 Men and provided Transports and other Necessaries for' em with a small Vessell of Force by the Middle of this Week) tho', both provinces and more especially this were before burthen'd with very considerable Taxes for the Support of his Majesty's Government in 'em. I also persuaded, myself, Sir, that tho' neither a Regard for his Majesty's Service nor the General Interests of New England should have mov'd your Assembly, yet that at this *Critical Conjuncture of Affairs* they would most readily have embrac'd so favourable an opportunity of promoting his Majesty's Service in the present Emergency, at least that the Gentlemen of the Assembly would not have distinguish'd themselves by being unconcern'd for it. I cannot indeed say what part the Colony of Connecticut will act upon this Occasion, but I shall hope that it will not prove to be the Characteristick Difference between the Spirit of the Old Charter Governments and those commonly distinguish'd by the Name of the King's Governments, that the former have less Duty to his Majesty and Zeal for the Publick Service in proportion to the privileges and Indulgence they enjoy under his Government.

The Levies in this Province go on very well, and I have a prospect of being able to send away a Body of 2000 Troops from Boston by the latter End of this Week or the beginning of next at farthest, and that I shall send 1000 more after 'em in a few days; And that I shall be able to assemble before the Harbour of Louisbourg by the Middle of this Month a Naval Force beyond what I expected, and which, I hope, may probably be superior to what the Enemy can send there before the Arrival of some of his Majesty's Ships of War from the West Indies and Great Britain. Of these Vessells four Ships, two Snows¹ and two Brigatines besides the Country Sloop are all in the Pay of this Province.

If your Assembly could be yet influenced to contribute any thing towards the Expedition, their raising of a Regiment of 500 Men to follow the Forces of this Province and New Hampshire as soon as possible may still be of considerable Service, which I shall yet hope they will do. I am Sir,

Your Honour's Most Obedient Humble Servant
W SHIRLEY.

P. S. I think M^r Hutchinson in his Memorial desir'd your Government would assist us with a few Battering Pieces of Ordnance; But as Gov^r Clinton has sent me ten Cannon for that Purpose with Stores and Implements, I shall not have Occasion for any more besides our own.

GOV^r GREEN.

¹ "A vessel equipped with two masts, resembling the mainmast and foremast of a ship, and a third small mast just abaft and close to the mainmast, carrying a trysail. Vessels are no longer rigged in this way." *Cent. Dict.*

DANIEL COGGESHALL¹ TO JOSIAH WILLARD.

S^r

Yours relating [to] Sundry persons accused of committing a Riot against the Authority of Your Province with the enclosed Proclamations came to the Hands of the Hon^l william Green Esq^r who has laid the same before the General Assembly of the Colony.² Who have considered the same, and how far this Government have acquitted themselves of any Imputation of Skreening the Persons charged as Rioters You will easily se by the inclosed Vote of the General Assembly.³ As this Disturbance was a Matter Foreign from this Colony the Authoritys thereof will by no means make them selves Abetors or Countenancers of the Authors thereof. And it is apprehended that the Conduct of this Colony has ever been such that there has been no room to Imagine that these Persons will find any Shelter therein. Signed by Order of the aforesaid General Assembly

per D COGGESHALL Pro Secr^y

EAST GREENWICH
March 7th 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.

To JOSIAH WILLARD Esq^r
Secretary in Boston

¹ One of the governor's assistants.

² See letter of October 18, 1744.

³ *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 107.

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR LAW.

WARWICK March 11th 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.S^r

our Gen^l Assembly being Seting the week past enacted that our Countrey Sloop well equip'd with Ninety able men to be enlisted as Volunteirs Should forth with proceed upon the Expedition against Cape Briton and There to be Under the Command; and Directions of the Commodore, and the Gen^l Assembly at s^d Sessions, Enacted that there should be forth with Enlisted as Vollunteirs in this Colony at the Governments Expense, three Companies of Mariens, or Land fources, fifty men to each Company; and we having Been Lately Informed that Your Government have Come into Measures to Raise a Considerable Number of Fources for s^d Expedition; and That; his Hon^r M^r Wollcot,¹ will Likely be appointed the Second Commander of the Land fources; which will be Very agreeable to our Governm^t Knowing him to be a Gentleman of Hon^r I am therefore Directed by our assembly to Request of Your Hon^r that, our Land fources may be annexed to Yours² when they Come to the place appointed and there be under the Command of Your Superior officers, for that we have not appointed any officer above a Cap^{tn} and our Government much Raither Chuses to Join Your fources than with Boston;³ I

¹ Hon. Roger Wolcott, of Windsor, commander of the Connecticut troops in the Cape Breton expedition, deputy governor of the colony from 1741 to 1750, and governor from 1750 to 1754. He died in 1767.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 104, 106, 107.

³ See Shirley's letter of March 4, 1745, for an explanation of this preference.

do therefore In behalf of this Colony earnestly Request that Your Hon^r will be pleas^d to favour us with Joining Your forces as aforesaid, and be pleased to Let me Know per the first opportunity that I may Give Instructions accordingly I am S^r

your Honours most Humble Servant

W. GREENE

P. S pleas to Direct (if You write) to be left at John Arnolds in East Greenwich

to the Hon^{ble} JONAS^N LAW Esq^r

JOSIAH WILLARD TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON March 27. 1745

Sir,

I am directed by the Governour and Council of this Province to acquaint your Honour that they have had Consideration of the Vote of your General Assembly pass'd the sixth Instant in Answer to the Demands of this Government¹ by my Letters written by their Order and dated the 18th of October last and 2^d Instant for the delivering up the Rioters fled into your Colony; And cannot but look upon this Answer as in Effect a Denial to deliver up these Men to Justice; for it is well known that two of them viz^t John Brown jun^r and Benjamin Burden are removed with their Families to Rhode Island, and may be taken up by your Officers every Day, but if any of our Officers come from the County of Bristol their Business is presently suspected, and so these

¹ See letter of March 7, 1745.

Men hide themselves for a short time, knowing their Danger will be soon over : But it was justly expected by this Government that upon the repeated Instances made to your Government for the Delivery of these enormous Offenders against the Authority of his Majesty's Government you would have immediately issued out Warrants for apprehending them by your own Officers, and upon their being taken that they should have conveyed them safe into the County of Bristol, and there deliver'd them up to Authority; And this Governm^t would have made no Difficulty to have acted with your Governm^t in the same manner, if such Offenders had fled from Justice out of your Colony into this; But seeing this Justice has been denied, the Governour and Council think it no ways honourable to proceed in the way you prescribe, in which they are sure to be baffled. And they are more concerned at this manner of proceeding of the Government of Rhode Island, because they find by the Records of this Province that it is not the first Instance of notorious Offenders being sheltered in that Colony. I am Sir,

Your Honour's very humble Servant

J WILLARD Secretary.

WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

GOVERNOR LAW TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

MILFORD April 1st 1745

S^r

Yours of the 11th of March last I rec^d have sent a Copy of it to the Maj^r Gen^l ¹ Gov^r Shirley has

¹ Major-General Wolcott.

given him a Commission over all the forces of the Massachusetts, Connecticut, Hampshire and Rhoad Island sent to Cape Breton and I have given a Comⁿ to Lieut Gen^l Pepperil and to him over all the forces that go to Cape Britton and places adjacent. If you think fitt you may do the like. And to your Captains, your Commissions may describe them to belong to the Regiment of Coll^l Andrew Burr of Connecticut

The Maj^r Gen^l I understand is gone down to New London and has ordered our Troops to be there on Thursday next.

doubt not but you will concert Measures with him when he shall come and joyn your forces in Order to proceed on the expedition.

Its pretty credibly reported (tho' Gov^r Shirley did not mention it to me) That the Paquett Boat brings News from Comadore Warren That he with three shipps will meet our forces att Cape Briton

He sends for forces to guard the Western part of his Province but our assembly have given Instructions to send men on the approach of an enemy and not garrisoning. he complains of his Province being exhausted of men and money, but its their own voluntary Act and we are drawn in by them. and I would hope for success if the Commadore comes

from your very humble servant

JONTH LAW

To the Hon^{ble} W GREEN Esq^r

ROGER WOLCOTT¹ TO GOVERNOR GREENE.NEW LONDON April 1st 1745S^r

Your two Letters to Gov^r Law of the 11th and 22^d of March past meeting with some Gentlemen of our Councill Who knew in What manner the Intended Expedition was lost with [illegible] by their ordering Come to my hand, that of the 22^d about five days since and the other this day

I Accknowledge the Hon^r your Assembly has done my self and the field officers here in ordering the Companys you raised to go with our troops under our Chief Comanding officers I have nothing to Report on this years Proceeding but that you deprived them of Better officers that would be sent from your selves. I assure you if they Came they shall fare as our own Men and I shall with utmost Chearfullness do them any service I can.

I am Glad you Encline that Cap^t Fones² and any other vessells you send should Go with us, this will certainly be for our Mutual defence. I am just now Come to Town and have this oportunity to Inform you that I have ordered our forces to be all here by Saturday Next at farthest and I doubt Not we shall be under saill some time Next Week, it may be towards the Latter End of it I have discoursed with Cap^t [illegible] about our Joining you, he says that if we put in at Newport it will Hinder us 24 hours and it may be two or three days, I therefore

¹ See note on p. 324.

² Fones was captain of the colony sloop.

propose that if you are ready first you Come to New London and sail together from home or if you shall think it better lett me know when we may Expect to find you off Block Island I am your Hon^{rs}

Most obliged Very Humble Serv^t

ROGER WOLCOTT

To the Hon^{able} WILL^M GREEN Esq^r

P S If my proposals are not Agreeable to you lett me Know your further sentiments What is best to be done in order to join without Loss of time

CAPTAIN DANIEL FONES¹ TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

SLOOP TARTAR CANSO HARBOUR²

Ap^r 26th 1745

Hon^d. S^r

This line Informs you That we got Safe into this harbour Yesterday we met with a Ship on our passage which prov'd To be a french man of War³ of Near 40 Guns and after we had given him two of our Bow Chases Saluted us with four Broad Sides to the Number of at Least 60 Cannon the Ship went So well that we were oblig'd To weaken our Vessel

¹ Fones was an enterprising sea captain, who represented North Kingstown in the General Assembly. He was sent to Cape Breton with the Connecticut transports, in command of the Rhode Island colony sloop, *Tartar*, and there distinguished himself by intercepting at Famme Goose Bay a force of 1200 French and Indians, who were advancing from Annapolis to the relief of Louisbourg. This was two days before the surrender of the fortress (see his letter of June 26). In the list of Rhode Island privateers of the later French war, given in Sheffield's *Privateersmen of Newport*, p. 52, Fones's name appears twice, in 1757 and in 1760.

² The rendezvous for the detachments from the different colonies, on the eastern coast of Nova Scotia.

³ This was the *Renommée*, of 36 guns, bringing despatches from France.

To get Clear of him w^{ch} we Effected after 8 hours Chase; we are this day going in Chase of him in Company with Cap^t Rows:

Comodore Warren with 3 other Ships of War are gone to Cape Britain: the fleet is To Sail from hence wth the first wind: all hands are well, this in haste Concludes from Hon^d S^r y^{rs} To Command.

DA^{LL} FONES.

To the Honour^{le} WILL^M GREENE Esq^r
Govern^r and Commander in Chief of the Colony
of Rhode Island

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 3^d month the 15. 1745

Gov^r. Green

I wrote thee of the 25. of 1st mo. last via Boston per Cap^t Adams and then sent thee a Copy of the Massach^{ts} Agents Petition to the L^{ds} Committee of Council against their Report on the determination of the Boundary Cause which has hitherto put a Stop to its being laid before the King for the Royal Confirm^a on the 11th ult there was a general Council held where I attended (notwithstanding the s^d Petⁿ) in order to get the Committees Report confirmed, but found that the s^d Agent had dropt his first Petition and a fresh one thrown in agst the Report addressed to the King in Council, w^{ch} the Clerk of the Council shewed me, intimating that the L^d President was for having it read and referd to the Consider^a of the Lords Committee, but he prevailed

with him to omit it then, and that it was not yet referr'd, but what will be done at the next or future Sitting of the Council I cannot take upon me to determine: this however will occasion some delay and Expence do all we can, however I intend in concert with my Solicitor do our best Endeavours for the Service of our Cause and nothing shall be wanting in my power to get this Matter finally determined — alltho' this late obstruction has given me no little trouble — and it is somewhat discouraging to be so much in advance as I am, having received no Remittance of the Colonys now for upwards of two years notwithstanding all my Remonstrances, tho' many opportunitys have offerd from Boston to London and Bristol.

the Parliam^t was prorogud the 2^d Inst and the King gone over to his Germain dominions. nothing was done this Sessions about Paper Currency, but it is certainly expected they will proceed on it when the Parliam^t meets again.

As for other Publick News the War is car^d on still with vigour against the French and Spaniards. The Q. of Hungarys Army has this Spring been very victorious in Bavaria driving all before them in so much as that the young Elector of Bavaria (son of the late Emperor) is forced intirely to quit his Ally the French and brot to Terms of accomodation and peace, w^{ch} was once hoped would have been as a foundation for a general pacification at least in Germany this Summer. The Dutch have hitherto held out and kept off from taking part in the War any

otherwise than by Auxiliaries afforded us by Sea and Land.

The French with a large Army are now beseiging Turnay¹ a Strong Fortified Town of the Q. of Hungarys in Flanders with whom our Allied Army have lately had an Engagem^t tho far inferiour in Number (commanded by the Duke of Cumberl^d and Gen^l Conigsegg) to the French and endeav^d to beat them out of their Trenches in order to raise the Seidge but were repulsed with the loss of 7 or 8000. Men of the English Dutch and Hannoverians killed: the Army notwithstanding made a good Retreat and are now reinforcing.

I should have told thee that the Parliam^t for some considerable time before they broke up had made a very Strict Enquiry into the miscarriage of the Engagem^t or Sea ffight of our Fleet in the Mediterranean with the combined fleets of France and Spain by examining the Admirals Matthews and Lestock and Sev^l Captains and Sea Officers and therein discov^d a great deal of cowardize and misconduct in some of the Capts and Lieu^{ts} and addressed the King that they together with the Admirals sh^d be tryed by a [word missing] Court Marshall w^{ch} is expected will be done accordingly

I am with respects

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

the Lords of the Regency now in the Kings ab-

¹ Tournay, invested by Marshal Saxe.

sence are the Arch Bishop of Cantebury L^d Chancellor
and 18 more of the Privy Council

WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations
New England.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR WANTON.¹

BOSTON May 18. 1745

Sir,

I am oblig'd once more to make Application to you for the Assistance of your Governm^t in the immediate raising of some Troops for supporting the Expedition against Cape Breton ; which the General of our Land Forces, and the Commodore of the Fleet have represented to me very necessary for the Reduction of the Place : How far Providence has hitherto favour'd us in this Attempt, and what Encouragem^t we have to proceed in it you will find by the inclos'd Copy of a Letter I have just now received from the General of our Forces :² And as I am inform'd it is pretended, to colour the Backwardness in some of the Colonies and Provinces to join with us in this Enterprize, That the Undertaking of it without his Majesty's express Order would be so far from recommending us to his favour that it would rather incur his displeasure, I am now able to remove that Objection and to acquaint your Honour, That upon my

¹ Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 134.

² See the following document.

Letter to his Grace the Duke of Newcastle informing him of our Resolution to undertake this Affair, and how far we had proceeded therein (which Letters were laid before his Majesty) his Majesty and his Ministers were pleased so far to manifest their Approbation of our Undertaking that without the least Loss of time two Ships of War were ordered to proceed directly to Louisbourg to support us herein ; as they had before upon my more general Intimation of a Design of this Nature, ordered Commodore Warren to come from the West Indies and attend this Service ; who is now before Louisbourg with five of his Majesty's Ships of War,¹ and will in a few days be joined with two other of his Majesty's Ships one of sixty and the other of forty Guns which are already saild from hence upon that Service : And I am fully assured that his Majesty has the Success of this Expedition much at heart. And now, Sir, as this Province has, (in Conjunction with the Province of New Hampshire and the Colony of Connecticut) at an immense Charge undertaken this important Expedition, and so far proceeded therein under the favourable Aspects of divine Providence, and the gracious Approbation and Assistance of his Majesty I must desire that your Governm^t would maturely consider how great a Benefit the Requisition of this Place will be to the future Safety and Tranquility of all these Northern Colonies ; And how justly his Majesty may resent a Refusal of any of 'em to join in the common Cause, and how much such Gov-

¹ Warren sailed from the West Indies with three ships, the *Superbe*, *Mermaid*, and *Launceston*, and reached Louisbourg late in April.

ernm^t may hereafter regret their unseasonable Frugality, if by denying at this Crisis to contribute their just Quota for the carrying on and Support of this Expedition, which is now brought so near to an happy Event, they should prove the Means of its fatal Miscarriage. This Representation of the State of our Case my Duty to his Majesty obliges me to make. And I must earnestly press your Governm^t to give it a full Consideration, and send me a speedy Answer as to their Resolutions thereupon.

I am Sir,

Your Honours obedient humble Serv^t

W SHIRLEY

The hon^{ble} GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

GENERAL WILLIAM PEPPERELL¹ TO GOVERNOR SHIRLEY.²

May it please Your Excellency.

The Letter herewith inclosed contains an Account of the State of the Army during our Stay at Canso: since which a more agreeable Scene has opened, I have now the pleasure to inform Your Excellency

¹ Sir William Pepperell was born in Kittery, Maine. His early career was that of a prosperous merchant. When thirty he was made colonel of the Maine militia. He represented Kittery in the Massachusetts legislature, and in 1727 was a member of the council. When the expedition to Cape Breton was planned, the command was offered to Pepperell, who accepted it after much hesitation. For his exploits before Louisbourg he was made a baronet, and was appointed colonel of one of the two regiments which it was proposed to raise in America on the English establishment. He remained at Louisbourg during the winter, and returned to Boston in 1746. Not long afterward, he retired from business, with the reputation of being the richest man in the colonies. In 1749 he went for a year's stay to England. He died at Kittery in 1759. See preface to the volume of "Pepperell Papers" in the *Mass. Hist. Soc. Coll.*

² Enclosed in letter of May 18, 1745.

that on the 29th Ult^{mo} We set Sail from thence with hopes of reaching Chappeauroge Bay¹ that Night, but the Wind failing rendred it impossible and obliged us to lay aside the thoughts of a Surprise: The next Morning about Eight o'Clock, We were off the Mouth of the Bay upon which the Enemy made an Alarm by firing off a Number of their Cannon. We came to Anchor with all Expedition, and tho' it was a difficult Time, determined immediately to land the Troops under Cover of Fletcher's Bosch's and Saunders's Gunns. a party of about 150, of the Enemy sally'd out to annoy our Landing who were well received by the boats first on Shore who killed Six or Seven, and took as many Prisoners (among whom were some persons of distinction) without Loss of any on our side, and one or two slightly wounded, The Enemy soon retreating to the Garrison. We landed about 2000 men the first day, during which time the Enemy burnt a Number of Houses between the Town and Grand Battery, and sank some Vessels in the Harbour the next day landed the remaind'r of the Troops and proceeded to put the Army into a proper disposition for such Operations as should be found most expedient.

Next morning found that the Enemy had deserted the Grand Battery in a very precipitate manner, having spik'd up the Guns, but left the Trunnions on, and many of the Carriages whole and a Quantity of Shott, upon which I immediately ordered a Regiment there, the Union Flag to be hoisted, and work-

¹ Also called Gabarus Bay, a spacious outer harbor, immediately adjoining Louisbourg.

men to drill the Cannon, who soon got several of them cleared, and turn'd them on the Town with good Success, almost every Shot lodging in the Town, and a considerable Number among which was the 3^d 4th and 6th fell into the roof of the Citadel: We have now got about Twenty of them ready for Service, four only of which can bring to bear upon the Town, most of the Others Command the Mouth of the Harbour, hope soon to get the whole Number drill'd which will be Twenty five 42 Pounders and two 18 Pounders; three of the 42 Pounders being split, cannot conceive of any reason why the Enemy should desert so fine a Fortification but extream want of men, The Enemy return our Fire from thence with some Cannon and more Bombs, some of which have shatter'd part of the Wall and building but hurt none of our Men. The landing and transporting of the Artillery and Stores, prove very difficult, have got the small Mortars and Cohorns to a hill about four hundred Yards distance from the Town and the large one to another hill near that, from which have thrown some Bombs into the Town, but the bed of the large One, on which Our chief Dependance is, has twice given way, and put us to Difficulty. The Enemy have twice sally'd out towards that Battery, but were repulsed by the Detachment Posted for the Security thereof, without Loss on our Side, and only one man wounded, but by some Cannon they have turned upon it from the Town, we have had one man killed and 2 or 3 wounded. We have also thrown up a fascine Battery at the West part of the Town where expect this Night to have

mounted the Eight 22 pounders. On the seventh instant, by advice of the Council, at which had the Pleasure of Commodore Warren's¹ Presence, A Summons was sent in to the Commanding Officer at Louisburg, Copy of which with the Answer have inclosed: upon which determined to proceed in the most vigorous manner, and to Attack the Island Battery in boats the first favourable Opportunity, to the Assistance of which Commodore Warren offered to send a Number of his Sailors and marines, but as yet have not had Opportunity to prosecute it I had the Pleasure of meeting with Commodore Warren on my Passage to Chappeauroge Bay, who assured me of his readiness to contribute to his utmost in any Shape for the good of the Expedition, and since our Landing he has been so good, as to come on Shore with the kindest Offers of the same, which are very acceptable and Engaging. Yesterday I received your Excellency's Letter of the 10th and 22^d Ul^{mo} by Express from Canso, Cap^t Bradford being detain'd there by the Loss of his Boom; delivered to Commodore Warren his inclosed Pacquets — what relates to that Gent: in your Excellency's Letters is perfectly agreeable to me; I shall on all Occasions be fond of the Assistance and Advice of a Gen^t whose generous Attachment to the welfare of the Colonies in general, and this Expedition in special, added to

¹ Sir Peter Warren, who was sent with a 20-gun frigate to guard the American coast off the Carolinas in 1735, and remained there nearly six years. Early in 1745 he was ordered north with his squadron to coöperate with the colonial troops in the attack upon Louisbourg. When Warren finally forced his way into the harbor, the fortress surrendered (June 27). He was promoted to be rear-admiral in August, 1745, and took part in the battle of Cape Finisterre in 1747. Later, he was elected member for Westminster. He died in 1752.

his well known personal Merit in his Active and successful Service of our Nation intitles him to the highest Esteem from Every well wisher to New England.

I had, before the receipt of yours, wrote to Cpt Tyng, that he should, with the Vessels under his Direction wait upon the Commodore for his Orders, and strictly to observe the same, have acquainted him of your Orders to me, relating to sending Smethurst¹ to New England. I make no doubt of his Majesty and the Ministry's intire Approbation of your Excellency's Conduct in Setting on foot this Expedition, and that they will Support it, but hope we may Accomplish our Design without waiting for any Additional force from thence. I imagine that it would be fruitless to send to Annapolis for any part of their Strength at a Time when they may Apprehend themselves in danger of a Seige.

Col^o Moulton has joined us with the Detachment sent to St Peters, having destroyed that Settlement, taken some Plunder and prisoners, burnt four Schooners, and brought off one. He lost one Man and had one wounded, the greatest part of the Inhabitants made their Escape. Have also Advice from Capt Donahew of his return with Becket from the Bay Vert, in going up the Gutt he met with a party of Indians, upon which Captains Jaynes and Staniford with their Companies going on Shore, tho Contrary to Orders, the former had the Misfortune to be killed, and the other wounded, the Indians were beat off without other Loss on our Part. In the Bay of Vert he took two small Vessels, that were Empty, the

¹ Captain Smethurst of the Massachusetts militia.

others were hall'd up, where he could not come at them ; he burnt a Considerable Number of Houses and birch Canooes : but was not so fortunate as to meet with any further Success. I find Chappaugo Bay a fine Harbour for the Transports, which have Ordered to remain there under the Care of Captain Saunders, I should have dispatch'd a Vessel to y^r Excellency immediately upon our Success at the Grand Battery, but the Wind has proved Contrary, and I was in hopes of being able to give your Excellency an Account of some Addition to Our Acquisitions By Advice of the Council this Day have determined to incamp in a regular Manner near the Northeast Harbour, and throw up a Battery there, and mount the New York Train of Artillery and some of the Guns from the Grand Battery, and to leave one Regiment at the Grand Battery, to Support and repair it, which may be soon done in such a Manner that 200, Men will defend it against 2,000, and with that and the other Battery proposed, I imagine that We command the Harbour against any Thing that will Attempt to get in, and by posting two Regiments to protect the Battery on the west Side and intercept any Recruits getting in by Land, We shall intirely cut off any Communication with the Town, as it has been judged not adviseable to Attempt the storming the Town at present, and as a considerable Reinforcement may be daily expected by the Enemy from Canada, as well as force from France which it is possible may find means to get in, I am advised by the Council to move to your Excellency the sending us the Reinforcement of a thousand

men, also another large Mortar, and a Number of Shells, and a spare bed for the large Mortar, shall send you up fourteen of our Transports under Convoy of Cpt Smethurst for that purpose, and by him and them shall send up the Prisoners, a List of which have inclosed, am much Obliged to your Excellency for your Care in regard to Us, I have just rec^d yours of the 23^d w^{ch} Cap^t Donahew brought down from Canso, by whom I am informed that five of the Vessels with Provisions for the Army are arrived there, having narrowly Escaped the French Ship that has been upon the Coast sometime, who had obliged one of them to strike, which afterwards Escaped by meeting with Rouse,¹ who to prevent the Transports falling into the Enemy's hands gave the Ship opportunity to chase him, by which means those of them got safe to Canso. I am fearful that one or both of the other are taken, The French Ship having made use of Our Signals for a Decoy, have not yet heard further of Rouse, hope Cpt Cutler will be able to give you a good Account of him by this Opportunity, have desired Com^r Warren to Send up a Convoy to Canso to bring down the Provision Vessels there: shall write y^r Excellency again by Cp^t Smethurst, whom I expect will be here very soon in the mean time must pray that multiplicity of business may excuse what is wanting in this. I am with all duty and Respect.

Your Excellency's most obed^t hum^{ble} Servant

W^M PEPPERELL

Copy Exam^d per J. WILLARD Secretary.

¹ Compare this with Fones's account of April 26, 1745.

BEFORE LOUISBURG May 12th 1745

I have had great Satisfaction in the Conduct and Vigilance of the General Officers and Col^o Bradstreet, and hope all the others will merit the Thanks of their Country, there was a Scout contrary to Orders Stragled and Eighteen of them were killed, there is near two hundred of our Soldiers taken sick since the inclosed List was taken

His Excellency Gov^r SHIRLEY

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 4th mo. the 13. 1745

*To Friend Gideon Wanton*¹

I expect by the information I have had that this will meet thee in quality of Governour of Rhode Island and Provid^e Plantations and therefore I lookt upon it my duty early to take this opportunity of assuring thee of my readiness to continue to serve the Colony wth faithfulness as I have hitherto done according to the best of my Capacity flattering my self it has met with their approbation and intend hereafter to advise thee of the most material Occurencys relating to the Colony. there has not the least attack on your Charter or the Priviledges of it been made by any person whatsoever that I have heard of (save the Paper Currency Bill in Parliam^t w^{ch} is over till next Sessions) and it may be depended on, that I shall be on the Watch and endeavour to pre-

¹ A nephew of William and John Wanton, and the third governor of that name.

vent any thing of that kind w^{ch} may be attempted to their prejudice, and exert myself in the preservation of their Rights and Libertys which hitherto they have enjoyed before and ever since the Colony have thought fitt to continue me in their Agency. I have not long since writt concerning the Colonys Affairs to the late Gov^r, Deputy Gov^r and Assembly w^{ch} I expect will be communicated to thee. And as the Lord President is gone to His Country Seat nothing further is like to be done very soon therein.

I have had no letter from any of yo^r Colony as I remember for a considerable time, tho' there has been an opportunity this Spring from Boston to Bristol and also very lately via Whitehaven by whom others have received Letters. I am with due respect to thyself and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Thy and their assured Friend

R^D PARTRIDGE

5 month the 2^d 1745

Governour Wanton

Agreeable to my information in the foregoing Letter I am now advised of thy being elected Governour of the Colony of Rhode Isl^d &c^a in which Station I wish thee success, and that thou mayst be endued with wisdom to Govern to the Contentment of the People and to thy own ease and happiness. with regard to the Affairs of the Colony which have been depending here — they are yet at a stand. the Lords Committees Report to the King in Council

on the Boundary Cause is not yet confirmed tho' we have strove hard to get it done, it being retarded by a long Petition w^{ch} the Massach^{ts} Agent has exhibited against it praying for the Reasons therein set forth that a Review of the Cause may be granted, that is for a Rehearing in N. E. against w^{ch} we have prepared a Counter Petition and am in great hopes we shall give it a Turn, however I intend to exert myself to the utmost wth my Sol^r and Council and leave no stone unturned to get their restless proceeding sett a side

The Matter of the Naval Officer lyes still dormant as it did.¹ I am waiting in Expectation for a Plan of yo^r Fortification agreeable to what is expected by the Ministry here which I wrote for some time since, that a grant may be obtained of those Stores proposed in the Office of Ordinance Report of w^{ch} I sent over a Copy.

Its expected that the Affair of the Paper Currency Bill will be resumed in the next Sessions of Parliam^t when I shall with the proper assistance of my Lawyers do my best to ward off any thing that shall tend therein to the prejudice of the Colony, being as I think pretty well furnished wth Argum^{ts} for the Opposition. I do not doubt but the Colony will furnish me in the mean time with the Supplys w^{ch} will be absolutely necessary for enabling me chearfully to pursue their respective depending Interests. I think it is now upwards of 2 years since I have had any Remittance from them, but am in expec-

¹ The reference is to Lockman's appointment.

tation of something considerable with the Mast Fleet.¹

And now I shall give thee some hints of the National Transactions w^{ch} probably will be expected (especially as it is now a time wherein great part of Europe are involved in the Calamity of Wars and bloodshed w^{ch} as far as I see are likely to continue till divine Providence shall see Cause to put an End to them by graciously interposing in favour to Mankind and Stop the Effusion of Blood amongst the Contending Powers.

The French have an Army joined wth the Span^{ds} in Italy to favour Don Phillips pretentions to Parma and Placentia belonging to the Q. of Hungary, they the French have also Two other powerfull Ones on the Rhine in Germany, and in Flanders, where they have lately taken Tournay a Strong fortified Town of the Said Queens, being a Dutch Barrier, in doing of w^{ch} its judg'd they have lost 20000 Men, but they had been attacked before that by the Army of the Queens Allies under the Duke of Cumberland^d consist^g of English, Dutch, and Hannoverians wherein the Allies came off with the worst.² the Queen of Hungary has a large Army on the Rhine in opposition to the French under Prince Conti. And another in Bohemia under the Command of Prince Charles employd agst the King of Prussia between whom there has also been a Battle wherein the Prussians had the better of it, and gained a great advant^a

¹ The mast fleet sailed annually from Falmouth, with masts for the royal navy. In times of war ships were frequently ordered to Falmouth that they might cross the ocean under the protection of the mast fleet.

² The battle of Fontenoy, May 11, 1745.

over the Austrians;¹ So that our Affairs as to the Land War go on but discouragingly. Our King is still at Hannover, probably he will go to the Army in Germany.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Sir,

I have just now received Letters from General Pepperil and Commodore Warren; by which I learn That tho' we have suffered some Loss of Men (between 1 and 200) in an Attack on the Island Battery, which miscarried; yet that we have obtained considerable Advantages against the Enemy in taking several of their Provision Vessels and worsting them in some Skirmishes, our Parties have had with them; and by the Intelligence they have received from Prisoners (which is confirmed by other Circumstances) the Enemy are short of Provisions and Ammunition: But as the Number of our Men is not equal to the Greatness of the Enterprize, and therefore the Duty is heavy on the Officers and Soldiers, they press importunately for at least Three thousand Troops as absolutely necessary to reinforce them, and a considerable Number of Seamen for Manning the Ship *Vigilant*:² But altho' the Land and Sea Forces need these Recruits, yet I find the Officers full of Hopes, of a good Issue of this Affair by the reduction of

¹ In the battle of Hohenfriedberg, June 3.

² Letters of Shirley to Wanton, upon the necessity of manning the *Vigilant*, written June 1 and 6, 1745, are in the *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 135, 136. See the action of the Rhode Island Assembly, *Ibid.*, V. 117. The *Vigilant* was a 64-gun ship, carrying 560 men, and loaded with stores from France. She was captured on May 19.

Louisburg. And as the Success thereof is of the utmost consequence for the best Interests of these Provinces; and which (as I find by Letters which Commodore Warren has received from His Majestys Ministers) his Majesty and his Ministers have much at Heart: I must therefore with great Earnestness press your Honour to have as many Soldiers and Seamen raised in your Colony, as can possibly be spared, and that without the least Delay: And I do assure you that I find the Assembly here well spirited to support the Expedition to their utmost, and that they will do all that they can to furnish the necessary Recruits; but it [is] not possible, nor can it be, expected that we should answer these Demands of Recruits without very great Assistance from our Neighbours.¹ If you have good Experienced Gunners with you, send them hither without Delay for this Service.

I desire to hear speedily from you for the Encouragement of our Friends at Cape Breton.

I am

Your Honour's very humble Servant

W SHIRLEY

BOSTON June 16. 1745

I must earnestly recommend this to the Consideration of your Governm^t as a matter in w^{ch} the fate of New England is wound up, and upon which the present and future Interest of your Colony in every respect is most deeply concern'd in particular.

W S.

The Hon^{ble} GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 119.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

BOSTON June 20. 1745

Sir,

About 8 o'clock this Evening I recieved Your Letter by Captⁿ Prince, and a Copy of your Act of Assembly for raising Seamen to man the Vigilant; And according to your request inclose you a Certificate,¹ which I hope will have its proper Effect.² If it is defective, be pleas'd to let me know it, and I will make it fuller, if I can; tho' I have taken care, I think, to leave no room for any doubt or Scruple.

I wish you success in the Execution of your Act, and that it may promote his Majesty's service at this very Critical Conjunction; and am Sir

Your Honour's most Obedient, Humble Serv^t

W SHIRLEY.

GOV^r. WANTON.

Certificate by Governor Shirley.

By his Excellency the Governour.

Whereas the General Assembly of the Colony of Rhode Island did on the second Day of June Instant pass an Act for Raising Seamen for the manning of his Majesty's Ship Vigilant belonging to the Squadron under the Command of the Hon^{ble} Commodore Warren now before Louisbourg, promising thereby a Bounty of seventeen pounds Old Tenour to be paid by the said Colony to every such able bodied Seaman, as shall enlist in the said Service, not exceeding the Number of two hundred Men: Now for the further Encouragement of Seamen within the said Colony voluntarily to Enlist in his Majesty's aforesaid Service, I do hereby Certify that all Seamen, who are or shall be so rais'd in the afore-

¹ See enclosure.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 117, 118.

said Colony for the said Service, are and will be entitled to his Majesty's pay from the time of their respective Enlistments, and to be discharg'd from the same at the End of the present Expedition against the French Settlements on Cape Breton, or the sooner Arrival of his Majesty's said Ship Vigilant at Boston, in the same manner, as Seamen rais'd and to be rais'd within the province of the Massachusetts Bay for the aforesaid Service are and will be, to an equal Share of Prizes with them; and to the same privileges offer'd by the said Commodore Warren to any, who have been Deserters from any of his Majesty's Ships, as they are and will be.

Given under my Hand and Seal at Arms at Boston the 20th Day of June 1745.

W SHIRLEY.

CAPTAIN FONES TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

SLOOP TARTAR IN THE GUT OF CANSO¹

the 26th June 1745

Hon^d. S^r

I suppose you have e're now Rec^d my letter of the 7th Ins^t wherein I informed yo^r honour of my being Stopt by a Council of war, Sea and Land officers in Concert. the reason of my being Sent to the Bay of Vert was to Intercept a Number of French and Indians that were To joyn the forces at Cape Breton on the 15th Ins^t my Self with Two other Sloops Under my Command met with them; as near as we Could guess Twelve hund^d in Number in Famme Goose Bay; Their fleet Consisted of Two Sloops, Two Schooners one Shalloway and about fifty Indian Canoes but we with our Consorts gave

¹ In 1746 this name was applied to the strait separating a group of islands opposite Canseau from the southeastern point of the peninsula of Nova Scotia. See map of the *Sieur Bellin* in Winsor, *Narr. and Crit. Hist.*, V.

them So warm a Reception killing some and wounding others; as Caus'd them To retire with precipitancy up Creeks out of our reach; and have been Cruizing for them Ever Since So that we hope we have Stopt them from going To Cape Breton.¹

I have this day dispatch'd one of the Sloops To Cape Breton and hope in a few days To hear that the place is Taken. I am mighty Uneasey that I have had no News from y^r honour; wou'd begg of you To write me per the first Oportunity. — Through Gods Goodness I have lost none of my people.

I am honour'd S^t y^r hon^{rs}

Most humble Serv^t

DANIEL FONES

GOVERNOR WANTON TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

Friend Partridge

You have herewith a Replication to the Vile Remonstrance of Christopher Kilby Esq, Agent for the Province of the Mass. Bay,² which Affair you are desired to get finished as Quick as possibly you can, and get the Decree passd upon the Report of the Right Hon^{ble} the Lords of the Committee according to their Determination

The two Remittances of £150 and £550 was made in due Time according to the Advices given You, and shipped in Gold Dust and Bills of Exchange in the Eltham Man of War commanded by Cap^t Philip

¹ For a notice of this engagement and its significance, see note on p. 329.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 121, for instructions of the Assembly to the Governor.

Durel sometime last Fall,¹ being reckoned the safest Convayance, which Ship was stopp'd by Commodore Warren in the Service of the Expedition against Cape Breton, and not gone Home as yet, nor don't know when she will be released.

The Plan of the Fort could not be got Ready now to send to the Board of Ordnance,² Because our Colony of late have been exceedingly busied in procuring to be raised 3 Companies of Foot Soldiers and about 80 Seamen to help Man the Ship Vigilant a French Ship of War of 64 Guns taken by Commodore Warren off Louisbourg on Cape Breton, which are all embarked for that Place.

You are desired by the General Assembly for the Future always when You write about the publick Affairs of the Government to superscribe Your Letters to the Governour and Company, and make no Personal Superscription, to avoid Letters being taken up by former Governours, For upon a new Election its Impossible for You to know Who is chosen, and being Personally directed may be taken up by a late Governour, of which We have had an Instance, and by this Method of Direction, the like will be prevented I am with Respects

Thy assured Friend

GIDEON WANTON

NEWPORT ON RHODE ISLAND 4 July 1745.

TO M^r RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

¹ See letters of December 12 and 29, 1744.

² The Assembly made arrangements for draughting a plan in the May session. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 117.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO THE PENOBSCOT INDIANS.¹BOSTON July 12th 1745.*Good Friends,*

As We have Agreed to give one another Advice of all that happens, I now Acquaint you that Heaven has favour'd our Righteous Cause against the French who have unjustly made War upon us, And Louisbourg with the Island of Cape Breton was the 17th of June last delivered into our hands, where we have now 4000, Soldiers Masters of the place, and ten large men of War besides many smaller Ships of War there, and We have also taken a large Man of War from the French carrying near Seventy Gunns,² and between Five and Six hundred Men besides a great Number of Merchant Vessells, and We have now brought to Boston above Seven hundred French Prisoners, and above Two Thousand French Prisoners at Louisbourg and aboard our Ships of War will Be sent home to France immediately, This Intelligence We send you that you may not be deluded by the French or S^t Johns and Nova Scotia Indians that may Sollicit you to break your Friendship with us to your own Ruin, We have been your faithful Friends and your Traffick with us has been much more for your Advantage than your Trade with the French and you may still live Easy with us and free from the distress and danger of War if you please but if not and you will let the French and

¹ A tribe of the eastern Abenaki Indians. Most of them had been converted by French missionaries and persuaded to remove to Canada; those remaining were to a greater or less extent under French influence. Parkman, *A Half Century of Conflict*, I. 34, 92.

² The *Vigilant*, of 64 guns.

the Indians in their Interest Deceive and Seduce You and you will perfidiously break your Solemn League with us, We doubt not but the Great God Who is the Avenger of all such Wickedness And has So remarkably Punished our Treacherous Enemys the French will stand by us and give us Success for the Punishing your perfidiousness, but if you are willing to Enjoy the benefits of peace with us we shall Expect that you will send two or three of your chief Captains To Confirm the Friendship between us, and if any of your People stand in fear of the French and therefore want protection for themselves and their Familys and will come up to Boston we will take Care of them. I Expect that you send me your Answer without delay.

I Remain your good Friend

W SHIRLEY

To the Sachem and others of the Penobscot and Norridgwalk Indians.¹

Copy Exam^d per J WILLARD Secretary.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 5 month the 18: 1745

Governour Wanton

I wrote thee on the 2^d Inst the needfull relating to the Affairs of the Colony to which I refer, all w^{ch} remain here still in the Same Scituation.

I have lately rec^d a lett^r via Holl^d from Jos. Whip-

¹ Norridgewocks, also a tribe of the Abenakis. See previous note.

ple Esq^r dat 15, May advising of a Remittance made to me of abo^t £700 St^g per the Eltham Man of War Cap^t Durell but that the same was gone to favour the Expedition at Cape Briton, So that it will be some time yet before it comes to hand, in the mean time we must wait with Patience, acknowledging the Col^{onys} favourable Regards Towards me.

Here is an Express lately arrived to the L^{ds} of the Admiralty from Boston of the 1st June giving Some acco^t of the progress of the said Expedition, about w^{ch} the Ministry and People here are mighty Intent and fond off, looking upon it of very great Consequence to this Kingdom as well as to our Plantations, and therefore are very much pleased with the New England People for Undertaking it: but I have had it several times thrown at me as if Rhode Island wou'd contribute very little if any thing at all towards it, And very lately as if they were so far from affording their Assistance that when the Sailors belonging to the Kings Men of War or other Ships of War had deserted and got into Rhode Island Government they were there harboured and protected that the Captains they belonged to cou'd not get them again, and that Commodore Warren had writt over Complaints of this Nature;¹ if these things shou'd prove true it may make up hill work for me, both at Court and Parliament, but I hope otherwise however I looked upon it my Duty to advise thee of it.

As to Publick News the King remains still at Hannover; Affairs as to the Land War go on still badly on our Side, unless it be on the Rhine in Ger-

¹ See Shirley's letter of June 6 to Wanton, in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 136.

many where they say the Queen of Hungary's forces have very lately obtained some considerable Advantages over the French Army under Prince Conti.

I am Thy Assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

To GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

Governour of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

New Engl^d

CAPTAIN FONES TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

SLOOP TARTAR IN LEWISBOURG HARB³

July 23 : 1745

I wrote you per Cap^t Tyng¹ wherein I inform'd you of the Rec^t of y^r letter; as you have orderd me To wait the Commodores pleasure I wonder that you did not Send me provisions.² I am out of Stores of every kind and my people almost Naked; Since my last Two of my hands are dead and Several others Sick. you Cant but know that provisions here are extravagantly dear and Scarce.

pleas to favour me with a line per first Oportunity.

I am Honour'd S^r

Y^r Humble Serv^t

DA^{LL} FONES

To the Honourable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island

¹ Captain Edward Tyng, of the *Massachusetts*, of 24 guns, and commander of the fleet of that province.

² The Assembly in August voted that Captain Fones should be directed to purchase necessaries at the best rate possible. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 124.

CAPTAIN FONES TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LEWISBOURG HARB^R [July] 26. 1745*Hon^d S^r*

Since my Last I am Obliged To Land my Sick (which are now on Board) which I'm afraid will hurt them very much. although 4 Sworn Masters of Ships, were Yesterday Sent on Board to View our Sloop and made Return that the Jibb and fore Stay 3 of the Shrouds the Main Sheet and all the Running Rigging is Ineffectual and good for Nothing. Yet Nevertheless I am hurried away To the Island of S^t Johns wth 70 Men of wars men what the Consequence may be God knows. I am to Convoy a Number of Vessels with Soldiers To demand the Inhabitants of S^t Johns To Surrender the Island To the King of great Britain.¹ I am Honour'd S^r

y^r most humble Serv.DA^{LL} FONES

To the honourable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r
Governour and Command^r in Chief of the Colony of Rhode Island

¹ Arnold (*History of Rhode Island*, II. 150) makes the statement that "four hundred men were sent from Louisbourg under convoy of the *Tartar*, against St. John's, on Prince Edward Island, which immediately surrendered." Haliburton (*History of Nova Scotia*, I. 123) says that the Island St. John's, since called Prince Edward's Island, was taken by the English in July, which is doubtless correct. Bourinot gives the island the name of St. Jean in his *Cape Breton*. See map opposite page 61.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 5 month the 23. 1745

Govern^r Wanton

I wrote thee of the 18th Inst of the Colonys Affairs &c^a to w^{ch} I refer, Since that there has been a Cause heard before the L^{ds} Comm^{se} of Council (in some measure Similar to the Circumstances of our Boundary Cause) at w^{ch} my Sol^r and I attend^d which was decided in such a manner that I think it will serve as a good Precedent for us and therefore I am not sorry the Petition of the Massach^{ts} Agent was not pushed on to a Hearing before the s^d Cause was over, for that I am in great hopes of our reaping at least some benefit by it. And now I have writt to the Clerk of the Council agreeable to the Copy of my Letter above,¹ w^{ch} I send thee to demonstrate that we are not negligent in prosecuting the Affair in such a manner as is consistant with prudence to obtain if possible the desired Effect.

I have also as thou wilt see wrote to the Said Clerk of the Council in vindication as well as I could of the Colony from the aspertions cast upon them in the matter of the Expedition agst Cape Briton, for it was he that first informed me of the Report, and the Answer therein given he seemd to take well and reckond it necessary.

I wish thou couldst get a few lines from Com^r Warren and send me in Justification of the Colony to take off the edge of those aspertions w^{ch} I beleive

¹ See the following document. Also Wanton's letter of July 26, and Partridge's of 6 mo. (August) 8, 1745.

has been spread abroad by Agent Kilby here, and perhaps the Boston People too may have falsly prepossest Com^r Warren to make him write home as he did (if he wrote any thing at all about it). this I looked upon as my duty to advertize thee off in time that I may receive thy Answer wth a further Vindication.¹

Possibly some designing People may (as I have heard) been traducing me too to the People of the Colony As if I were not true to the Trust they had reposed in me.

If any such Reports sh^d have been out I almost assure my Self from the Experience the Colony have had of my fidelity so many years that they cannot gain any Credit with the Gentlemen of the Administration, for it is so ridiculous in itself that I hardly thought it hardly worth my while to take notice off. I do assure thee that I have no design to do any thing to the prejudice of the Colony or to endeavour to vacate or alter the Constitution or Priviledges of yo^r Charter directly or indirectly or to take any Steps of that kind I never did, nor had I ever any such thoughts harbourd in my breast; but have always endeavourd to vindicate and Support the said Colonys Rights and Priviledges, and I challenge the greatest of my Enemys to make the Contrary appear. On the 20 Inst Cap^t Montague arrivd Express from Cape Briton wth an acco^t of the Surrender of that Place to the English to the great Rejoycing of the

¹ The Assembly had already, in June, taken measures to vindicate the somewhat cautious attitude of Rhode Island toward the Cape Breton expedition. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 123, and letter of Wanton to Partridge, July 26, 1745.

People here and we have need of it (as they say) for our Affairs go but in differently on as to the Land War. I am wth respects to thy Self and the Gentlemen of the Council and House of Representatives

Thy and their ffaithfull ffr^d

R^D PARTRIDGE

The Governm^t are about to send Ships for 1600 Land forces to carry to Cape Briton¹

To GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO WILLIAM SHARPE.²

LONDON 5 month the 22. 1745

Friend W^m Sharpe

As the Maidstone Cause³ lately heard before the L^{ds} Com^{ee} of Council was thought to be something of a Similar Case wth ours respecting the Circumstance of our Bound^a Cause, And in as much as the Lords absolutely refused to Suffer their Judgm^t to be broke in upon: I think it makes greatly for us as being a good precedent, from whence we may conclude that they will not permit any Review or rehearing to be allowed in ours. I therefore intreat that thou wo^{dst} exert thy Self that our Report may be no

¹ This rumor did not prove to be well founded.

² Enclosed with letter of July 23, 1745.

³ In 1740 or 1741 the corporation of Maidstone was dissolved by a judgment of the Court of King's Bench on information of *quo warranto*. Efforts were made in 1743 to secure a fresh charter, but were at that time ineffectual. Hasted, *History of Kent*, II. 106; Russell, *History of Maidstone*, 204, 205.

longer postponed but confirmed by the Lords Justices in Council w^{ch} I shall esteem as the greatest of favours from thee.

as to the Report lately advanced against the Rhode Isl^d Colony that [they] no ways Contributed their assistance in the Expedition agst Cape Briton: depend upon it it is absolutely false, for that altho' they had no Orders about it from Great Britain and consequently it co^d be no disobedience or disrespect in them to the Crown, yet in the first place it is notorious and apparent from the Publick acco^{ts} lately come over that there was an Armed Sloop of War belonging to Rh^d Island at Cape Briton with our Ships when the Place was taken, and I am credibly informed that the Colony Actually raised 150. Men for that Service besides, and that the Merch^{ts} of Rhode Island advanced £8000. amongst themselves for the said Expedition and that a 20 gun Ship was hired by them w^{ch} they employd in that Service

And as to the other Story of their harbouring and protecting the Men of Wars Men and not suffering them to be taken and restored to their proper Ships,¹ I doubt not but it will prove to be equally false and at this time propagated by our Enemys to serve some Sinister view. I desire therefore the favour of thee to contradict those malicious Reports wheresoever thou mayst meet with them, w^{ch} will be doing Justice to the Injured and oblige

Thy Friend

R^D PARTRIDGE

¹ See note to letter of July 18, 1745.

CAPTAIN MUMFORD¹ AND OTHERS TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

May it Please Your Honour

These waits on you per Cap^t Griffith and Serves to Acquaint you that we are Save arrived here And are Received as part of the army by a Counsel of war And as we ware not here at the beginning of the Seage it is thought that we must be Obliged to Stay here all Winter. Therefore the General Advised us to Inform Your Hon^r it is absolutely Necessary to have Twelf Months provisions Sent to us as soon as possible For it is Expected That we Shall have a Vigeros Atack Early in the Spring so that we must Earnestly Desire That these things mentioned in the InClosed Invoice May be Sent to us: We also Desire to know in what Manner our Soldiers must be paid for their will soon be a months pay due to them. as for News we must Refer your Hon^r to the Publick prints by Reason they have it from more Capable hands. Saving that Yesterday here was a french East Indeaman appeard of this harbour and the Commodore Sent out Two Sixty Guns Shipp affter her. The princes Mary Came up With her first and gave her a Broad Side and She Struck without firing a Gun She is a forty Gun Shipp and is thought to be worth Three Hundred

¹ Captain of the first of the three companies noted in May, 1745. See Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 147, and *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 121, 123, 125.

Thousand pound Sterling.¹ We are your Hon^{rs}
Most obedient and Hum^{le} Serv^{ts}

R^D MUMFORD
WILLIAM SMITH
JOSHUA CHAMPLIN

LEWISBOURG July 24 1745

To The Honourable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r
Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island

COMMODORE WARREN TO GOVERNOR WANTON.²

LOUISBOURG July 25. 1745

Sir

I have the pleasure to tell you, that two of my Squadron, have taken a Rich East India Ship, and that we propose to sell her Cargo here, if the Merchants will come from the Collony to purchase it.

Herewith I Inclose you an advertisement,³ which I desire you will get Printed, and distributed about your Government, in order to the peoples being here in time as the Season is now far advanc'd.

I am in daily expectation of the Provisions and men, that I wrote to you for, for the protection of this Important Garrison.

I am with great Regard S^r

Y^r Most Obedient humble Servant

P WARREN

Hon^{ble} GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

¹ See Warren's letter of July 25, 1745.

² Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V, 139.

³ See enclosure.

[Enclosure.]

LOUISBOURG July 25th 1745

Whereas a very valuable French East India Ship from Bengal called the Charmont, was lately taken by Two of his Majesty's Ships of Commodore Warrens Squadron, and is brought into this Port, having on board a large Quantity of Muslins of various Sorts, plain and embroidered, and all other Sorts of Cottons, a large Quantity of Handkerchiefs of various Sorts for men and Women, plain and embroidered, Seersuccers, a large Quantity of raw Silk and Kirman Wool, Table Linnen, a large Quantity of pepper, and a variety of other valuable Merchandise yet unknown — This is to notifie all persons inclining to purchase any of said Goods, that the above mentioned Ship and Cargo will be condemned in this port, and the Sale of said Cargo will begin in about a Month from this Date

P WARREN

GOVERNOR WANTON TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE.

NEWPORT July 26th 1745

S^r,

As the Agent for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay has been very liberal in his Aspersions against this Colony and as we suspect that he will misrepresent our Conduct in Regard to the Cape Breton Expedition the General Assembly have directed that a true Account of what We have done be given You and that You be inform'd of those Cir-

cumstances that will justify our Conduct and which You are to make Use of to vindicate Us if there be Occasion.¹

It is well known this Colony has always distinguish'd it self by it's Zeal and Readiness in all Expeditions directed by the Crown, and has ever sent more than it's equal Proportion of men, as in the Expeditions against Canada and Port Royal formerly, and now lately in the Expedition to Carthagen a we just sent as many Companies as Connecticut tho' so much larger than this Colony, and afterwards sent fifty Recruits and were raising more when ordered to disband them.

The Reduction of Louisbourg We always Understood to be of very great Importance to the british Plantations and Commerce, and therefore expected and hoped it would be undertaken in the Course of this War; but we thought it too difficult and expensive for New-England alone, the Scheme You sent Us over in the Fall, We understood to be under the Consideration of the Ministry,² but as we had receiv'd no Intimation that it was approved of, and no Orders about it, We were surpris'd with the news that the Province had voted to undertake the Conquest of Cape Breton, without previously consulting their Neighbours. At first while it was supposed the Governor of Boston had secret Instructions to raise Men and an Assurance of a sufficient Addition of Sea and land Forces from England, People were

¹ See letter of July 23, 1745, and *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 123.

² Auchmuty's *Importance of Cape Breton to the British Nation, and a Plan for taking the Place.*

very sanguine and zealous in the Affair, but when it appeared that he had no Orders at all, nor so much as a discretionary Power to stop some of his Majesty's Ships then at Boston; and which seem'd of the last Importance to the blocking up the Harbour, when it did not appear he was assured the Ministry approv'd of the Undertaking at present or had made Provision to carry it on, or whether the State of Affairs would permit the sending such a Force as seem'd necessary to render it succesfull, Who can Wonder if we were afraid to precipitate the affair, which must needs have been of the most fatal Consequence if it had fail'd, and discourage and disable Us from assisting again if the Crown should think fit to direct such an Expedition. And we are well assured that the Expedition was carry'd but by one single Vote in the House of Representatives at Boston.¹

The Scheme laid before the Assembly supposed the Concurrence of many Accidents, the Consequences of any one of which failing would be fatal, the Pretence to surprise such a Town at such a Distance with such a Fleet and army appear'd to Us as it has since prov'd a most vain Expectation and the keeping out Supplies from the Enemy was as impossible with any Force could be rais'd in New-England without the Assistance of some Men of War, two french Men of War of fifty four and sixty Guns were expected early in the Spring against which we

¹ Such was the fact, and Parkman relates that a tie was only avoided by a member of the opposition falling and breaking a leg as he was hastening to the House to record his vote. *A Half Century of Conflict*, II. 88.

had nothing to oppose but small Vessels from ten to twenty Guns; And it is now universally own'd that had one sixty Gun Ship got into the Harbour of Louisbourg, the whole Scheme would have fail'd, if our Fleet had not been destroyed and perhaps our whole Land-Army made Prisoners at Cape-Breton Island. It is also acknowledg'd that if Commodore Warren had not been ordered to protect Anapolis from the french Invasion, all the Men of War that were or could be ordered on this Expedition would have come too late, so that the success is now by every Body allow'd to be merely providential. Besides as there was not to be one experienc'd Officer or Soldier that had been used to military operations nor one Engineer in the whole Army, We could not avoid reflecting on the fatal miscarriages at Augustine and Carthagera and also on the Failing of the first Expeditions against Port-Royal and Canada. We had no Scruple of the natural Courage good Sense, Zeal, Activity and Integrity of the General and Army, but we had heard of the Difference between raw and inexperienc'd Men and regular Forces; And we knew our People were ignorant of the Art of incamping and besieging Towns. Louisbourg was known to be very strong and to have a Garrison of regular Troops besides the Inhabitants, Who on such an Occasion must be reckon'd for Soldiers as well as our own People.

The prodigious Expence was another discouraging Article; for the Colony had anticipated all their Funds to defray the Expence of the fatal Expedition to Carthagera, the last year's Rate for maintaining

the Colony's Sloop was unpaid, the carrying on the Law-Suit and the defence of our Charter Priviledges against the Province was very expensive and the Bill depending in Parliament about Paper Currency was of such a Nature as made it very hazardous to emitt any large Sum at this Juncture before We knew in what Shape it would pass.

The Colony was then exhausted of Men to an uncommon degree, not twenty had ever return'd from the West India Expedition, We had lost many more in the Privateers and had then ten or twelve sail on a Cruise so that it was morally impossible to raise such a Number of Volunteers here at that Time as was desired. For the People in general had not the same Apprehensions of the Danger of an Indian War or the same dependence upon and Expectations of Advantage from the Fishery as the Massachusetts and New-Hampshire had, and which went for to spirit up their People to inlist so chearfully as they did.

However our Gen^l Assembly after serious deliberation voted to send the Colony's Sloop well mann'd,¹ the Merch^{ts} of the Town of Newport subscribed about seven thousand Pounds towards the Pay of two Privateers that were thought necessary. We permitted the Governor of Boston to endeavour to raise Men and even offered an additional Bounty to encourage them to inlist and put our selves to a considerable Expençe on that Account but to no Purpose.² On further Application to Us in the Month of March We voted to raise three Companies of fifty men each

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 100, 104.

² *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 105.

beside officers, and in order to raise the Men if it were possible, We voted them both higher Bounty and larger Pay than was offer'd by the Province¹ but there being no Probability that the Companies should be fill'd in Season, after We had put our Selves again to a large Expence to no Purpose We were forced to disband them, however the Colony's Sloop well fitted and mann'd convoy'd the Connecticut Forces and prov'd of singular Service.

Afterwards when we had Advice that Commodore Warren with a Squadron of men of war had block'd up the harbour and that the land Army needed a Reinforcement, we reviv'd the Vote to raise three Compan^s and actually did raise them, tho' at a much greater Expence than the Province, *and tho' We were obliged to impress Men to compleat the Companies,*² and on further Notice that there was a Want of Seamen to mann the Ship Vigilant, We voted seventeen Pounds Bounty a man for Volunteers, but not being able to raise a sufficient Number, We actually impress'd several³ so as to send away about seventy to Boston and tho' the good news of the surrender of Louisbourg arrived at Boston before Our Forces sail'd from thence yet they proceeded the Voyage and are there now.

If we have not done all that our Neighbours demanded Yet You will observe that we have given them considerable assistance, and that the Assembly endeavoured to have given them still greater, it must also be observed that our Assistance has been thro'

¹ *Col. Rec. of R. I., V. 102 et seq.*

² *Col. Rec. of R. I., V. 113, 114.*

³ *Col. Rec. of R. I., V. 117-119.*

the Providence of God singularly useful, our Colony's Sloop sav'd the whole Connecticut Regiment from a thirty two Gun french Ship by the Generosity, Courage and good Conduct of Cap^t Fones, he afterwards intercepted a Brigg^t laden with Provisions and Refreshments for the Town and was happily the means of breaking a large Body of above a thousand french and Indians that came from the Siege of Anapolis and were imbarck'd in the Bay of Vert for the Relief of Louisbourgh.¹

You will also observe that no Other of the Plantations could be induced to give any Assistance at all at the first (besides Connecticut and New Hampshire) nor afterwards all of them together to give so much and such effectual Assistance as this little Colony and the Merch^{ts} of the town of Newport chearfully afforded, and that hereby our Sea Coast has been unguarded while the Enemie's Privateers have covered the Sea, there not being a Man of War on this Side of South Carolina.

We are far from desiring to lessen the Merit of this important Conquest and are willing our Neighbours should share the chief Glory as they are like to reap the chief Benefit. But we would not willingly suffer in the Opinion of the Ministry as deficient in Loyalty, publick Spirit and Zeal for his Majesty's Service, if you judge it necessary we will send you Copies of the several Votes and Acts of Assembly relating to this Expedition² and if You find the Charge of it is likely to be born by the Crown

¹ See letters of April 26 and June 26, 1745.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 123.

desire You would appear in our Behalf for what we have spent the Proof of which we will transmit to you.

In Behalf of the Government I am,

Y^r: Assured Friend

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

6 month the 8th 1745

Since the foregoing we have had an other Express per Cap^t: Rouse¹ who arrived in about 3 weeks from Cape Briton wth a Confirm^a of the News of the Surrender of Lewisbourg to our Forces there, the Guns of the Tower have been fired off and great Rejoycings made here for the Success, and I am apt to think when the Parliam^t meets the Expende of that Expedition, or good part of it will be paid if authentick acco^{ts} thereof are sent over and due application made

I was lately at the Sec^{ry} of States Office where I was told again of the backwardness of Rhode Island in contributing their Assistance tow^{ds} that Expedition, — whereupon I wrote to the Gentleman who informed me of it in vindication of the Colony, A Copy whereof I also send inclosed w^{ch} I hope will take off the edge of the Prejudice the Ministry may have rec^d on that acco^t:²

As to publ: News — the King is still at Hano^r: but will probably return sooner than was expected. The

¹ One of the Massachusetts captains, commander of the *Shirley*, of twenty guns.

² See the following document.

L^{ds} Justices on the 6 Inst published a proclam^a offering a Rewa^d of £30000. for apprehen^g the Pretend^s eldest Son who (as it is pretended) was either embarked or preparing for it in ord^t to Land in Scotl^d¹ but notwithstand^g we dont seem to have any thing to fear on his acco^t. As to the War in general, things of late [word missing] but with an indiff^t aspect on our side I mean as to the Land War especially in Flanders where the French are driving almost all before them they being above double the Number of our Allies there, and have now beseig'd Ostend w^{ch} very probably they will be Mast^r off this Summer Indeed many here are now of opinion that if the English had not expended so many Millions as they have done in carrying on the Land War but had employd the Money more in managing the War by Sea and stuck principally to that, it w^d have been much more to our advantage.

The taking of Cape Briton, and since that of 2 prodigious rich Span: S^o Sea Ships (worth abo^t a million St^r) taken by 2 of our Lond^o Privateers, and also of 4 or 5 French Ind^a Men (3 of them from China) taken by 4 of our Men of War in the East Indies, w^{ch} with several other late valuable Captures must greatly distress the Enemy and go a good way tow^{ds} making amends for our ill Success in other respects. for the rest I refer to the prints I now send by this Ship to my Correspond^t And^r Oliver Esq^r of Boston to be forwarded to thee, and remain

Thy assured lo: Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

1 The young Pretender landed in the Highlands on July 25.

this I intend per Cap^t Rouse via Cape Briton they say Comodore Warren is appointed Gov^r of Cape Briton and Gen^l Pepperell is to have a Regiment w^{ch} will be worth to him about £1400. a ye^r Sterling.¹

GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

Governour of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE² TO THOMAS RAMSDEN.³

Friend Tho : Ramsden

I am obliged to thee for the hint thou hast given me of the Complaint that has been lately wrote over against the Colony of Rh^d Island for their backwardness in joyning their assistance tow^{ds} the Expedition against Cape Briton.

Upon w^{ch} I take the liberty in Justice to the Colony to send thee the foll^g observaⁿ in their Vindication.

Now altho' there are disputes depending between that Governm^t (which is but a small Colony) and that of the great Province of the Massachusetts, — and that the Said Colony had no ord^{rs} about the Said Expedition from great Britain and consequently it co^d be no disobedience or disrespect in them to the Crown: Yet it is notorious and apparent from the Publick acco^{ts} lately come over, that there was an Armed Sloop of War belonging to Rh^d Island at

¹ See note on p. 335.

² Enclosed with letter of August 8, 1745.

³ Secretary to the Lords of the Regency.

Cape Briton with our Ships when the Place was taken. And I am credibly informed that that Colony actually raised 150. Men besides for that Service lately towards the reinforcem^t and wo^d have procured a Party before but could not find a Sufficient Number of their People willing to enlist themselves.

That the Merch^{ts} of Rh^d Island advanced £8000: amongst themselves and hired a 20. Gun Ship to be employd in that Service: and I am ready to think that Comod^r Warren (who was not now at Boston himself) must have been imposed upon and prejudiced by the Massach^{ts} People respecting the Colony of Rh^d Island or else he wo^d hardly have wrote home as I understand he did.

Their Loyalty and obedience to the Crown heretofore is well known, for that whenever there has been any Expedⁿ ord^d from great Britain to be executed in North America, the Rh^d Island^{rs} have always paid due Obedience to the Crown and afforded their Quotas; perticularly in the Wars of the late Queen in the Expedⁿ agst Annapolis Royal and against Canada. And that in the Sea War at that time; the New England^{rs} must Confess that the Privateers from this Colony of Rhode Island did more Execution agst the Privateers of the Enemy that infested their Coasts than all the Ships of War of the Massachusetts or indeed than of all the Colonys in those parts put together.

I hope therefore when these things are duely considered that our Colony of Rh^d Island shall not be censured till at least they be heard for themselves what they may have further to say in their Vindica-

tion and that till then the Report of accusaⁿ against them will not gain any Credit ex Parte

I am Thy obliged Fr^d

R.^D PARTRIDGE

MARK LANE 5 month the 30. 1745

If thou thinkest it proper thou mayst Communicate this letter to the Duke of N. Castle.

To THOMAS RAMSDEN Esq^r

Secretary to the L^{ds} of the Regency

At the Duke of N. Castles Office

Whitehall

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR PHIPS¹ TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

BOSTON Augth 19. 1745

Sir,

The State of Affairs between this Government and the Eastern Indians being in such a Situation as to make it necessary for the better Security of his Majesty's Subjects on the Frontiers exposed to their Fury to declare War against them, unless, by their speedy Compliance with the Demands of the Government, they should prevent it; I do now at the Desire of the General Court in this Province in their late Session hereby inform your Honour of Our Proceedings with the said Indians in order to prevent a War, and the Unsuccessfulness thereof, as you will find by the inclosed Copy of a Letter from Governour Shirley

¹ Nephew and adopted son of the Sir William Phips who captured Port Royal in 1690, and was governor of Massachusetts from 1692 to 1694. The second Phips was lieutenant-governor of the colony from 1731 to 1757, and administered the government during the absence of the chief executive.

to the said Indians, and another Letter from him to Cpt. Bradbury Commander of the Fort at S^t Georges River,¹ directing him to demand Satisfaction of them for the Murthers committed upon Our Inhabitants by some of their People (joining with the other Indians) and their burning their Houses, killing their Cattle &c. with Cpt. Bradbury's Answer to the last mentioned Letter.

And as the Common Cause requires the mutual Assistance of these Governments in time of War and Danger, We desire the Concurrence and Assistance of your Government for prosecuting a War against these Indians, when it shall be declared and furnishing a Quota of men for the Defence of the Frontiers in this and the other exposed Colonies; And altho' some of these Colonies are not much, or at all, exposed to the Assaults of the Indians, yet as the others are a Barrier to them, they must judge it highly reasonable that they should send Succours to the most exposed Places; and especially as we are all equally obliged to this Duty as Subjects of the same Prince and which his Majesty will justly expect from all his Colonies in these Parts. I am Sir

Your Honour's most Obedient humble Servant

PHIPS

The Honourable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

¹ See the two following documents.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO CAPTAIN BRADBURY.¹

BOSTON July 22. 1745.

Sir

I have received your Letter of the 16th Instant July giving me an account of the assault Committed by the Indians upon your Fort and other places near you Mr Milliken tells me that you are possitive that you saw some of the Penobscutt Indians among the Assailants and particularly that you saw one of those that had been in under a pretence of Friendship to inform you of these Designs: By your Letter you seem to apprehend, that the Penobscutt Indians are generally in these Acts of Hostility However I think it will be best that if any of the said Penobscutt Tribe shall appear near the Fort that you hoist a Flag of Truce to call them in to an Interview with you, and if you can obtain any Speech with them I would have you read my Letter to 'em which I sent by Mr Milliken and also tell them that I am informed of this Violation of Treaty and that if the Body of the Penobscotts are engaged with our Enemies, I shall immediately declare War and pursue them with all the Resentment which so horrid an Act of Treachery and Wickedness deserves, but if they profess that the Body of the Tribe are against these proceedings and are disposed to peace I expect and insist upon this proof of their Sincerity, that they deliver up those of their people as have been in Arms against us and have Joined with the party of Indians who have Assaulted us and that you will give them the Space of

¹ Enclosed with letter of August 19, 1745.

Seven days only for their either delivering up these murtherers or giving five Hostages of Some of their Principal men to Secure the Delivery of the said Indians in the Space of Seven days more.

I am Sir your Friend and Servant

W SHIRLEY

P. S. Give me a full account of these affairs with all possible Dispatch.

To Capt JABEZ BRADBURY

Copy examined per J. WILLARD Secretary.

CAPTAIN BRADBURY TO GOVERNOR SHIRLEY.¹

GEORGES ² July 29. 1745.

May it Please your Excell^y

The third day of our being Attack't by the Indians and before I reced y^r Excellencys orders for so doing being desirous of knowing who of the Penobscotts were amongst our Enemys; I put up a Flagg of Truce one of the Indians Came in, Captⁿ: Bane and I went out to the Others who were thirtyfive in Number Many More being up the River at the same time burning Houses and killing Cattle whom we Saw not, Amongst those we Saw were Nine Ponobscotts the Chief of whom were Sebohooset, one Called Rich Outrea, and Paternion Men well known here

I read y^r Excell^y Letter to them thrice that they

¹ Enclosed with letter of August 19, 1745.

² The fort on St. George's River.

might fully understand it, they said it came too late and added that we had broke the Peace by refusing them Powder at the Truckhouses and the taking St Johns Indian last fall.

The Man Mentioned in My last letter they killed and Scalp't, we bro't him in and buried him and I hear that a dutchman at Broad Bay was killed and scalp't by the Indians about the same time they were here.

Its now more than ten days since we saw them. where they are I know not, but suppose they are Preparing for More Mischief I Expect soon to see them here. I hope your Excell^y will send seven Men to fill up the Company, And also Increase the Number if it may be thought best.

I am y^r Excell^{ys} Most Obed^t humble serv^t

JABEZ BRADBURY

His Excellency Governour SHIRLEY.

Copy examined per J. WILLARD Secy.

CAPTAIN FONES TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LOUISBOURG HARB^a 20 Augth 1745

Hon^d S^r

This per Cap^t Cahoon¹ Informs you, that we are now bound on a Cruize; and I beleive To Newfoundland. I am Surprized that in the one Letter you Sent me, you gave me orders To wait the Com-

¹ Probably John Cahoon, who sailed with Fones as lieutenant of the *Tartar*. Arnold, *History of Rhode Island*, II. 146.

mod^{rs} pleasure; and that our Commissary sent us no Stores of any kind. the Commod^{re} will by no means part with me; and provisions are extravagantly dear. I'm Obliged To give 24s per Gallⁿ for Rum, and for other Stores in proportion. four of my people are dead: many more Sick; and the Rest almost Naked: w^c renders the Circumstances of my people Miserable. Our Circumstances Considered, I Impatiently wait your Orders To go home. for News I refer you To Cap^t Cahoon; and am wth Respect,

Hon^d Sr y^r most humble Serv^t

DALL FONES

To the Honorable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r
Govern^r and Commander in Chief of the Colony
of Rhode Island

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

From the Boston Evening post, June 24: 1745

NEWPORT June 21.

The Govern^t of Rhode Island have passed an Act for raising a Number of ablebodyed Seamen not exceeding 200. to be sent forthwith for manning the Vigilant who are to have £17. (old Tenour) bounty upon enlistm^t to be paid by the Colony: The conduct of enlisting was committed to M^r Seth Harvey and M^r Ezeck^l Hubbard, Persons very capable to serve his Majesty in this affair who have generously resolved to go themselves wth the Men enlisted.¹

¹ See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 118.

They have now between three and four Score able
Sailors with which they design directly for Boston,
And what can be further procured will be sent after:
The Land Forces will also Speedily embark

the above was done before they had in New Engl^d
the News of the Surrender of Cape Briton to the
English.

LONDON 6th month the 22^d 1745

Gov^r. Wanton

I wrote thee of the 8th, and 15th, Inst of the Colonys
Affairs to w^{ch} I refer, this now only Serves to ac-
quaint thee that meeting with the above parragraph
in a New Engl^d News Paper I transcribed it and
sent it in a Letter to my Friend Ramsden of the
Duke of NewCastles Office as a further Testimony¹
of what yo^r Colony have done wth respect to their
joyning their assistance in the Expedition, and now I
hope the Duke will be fully convinced of the disposi-
tion of Rhode Island Colony in that Affair notwith-
standing the Reports thrown out against them; in
vindication of whom I apprehend^d it my duty that so
they might not lay under false Imputations.

I am Thy assured Friend

RICH^d. PARTRIDGE

To GIDEON WANTON Esq^r.

Govern^r of the Colony of Rhode Island and
Providence Plantations
New England

¹ See Partridge's letter to Ramsden, of July 30, 1745.

CAPTAIN FONES TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LEWISBOURG HARBR the 23d Augth 1745

Hon^d S^r

Since my last I have been Obliged to Carry Sevrall of my people on Shore To the hospital Some of them I never Expect To See again and am Obliged To recruit in our Land Companys. I'm this day To Sail for Newfoundland wth a paquet^t To the Gov^r when we Shall be at home I know not.

I Conclude Hon^d S^r y^{rs} To Command

DA^{LL} FONES

P. S: I have this day Taken up provisions for 6 weeks but have not yet an acco^t of the price

I have sent Some of my Sick on Board the Bearer Cap^t Cahoon in order to be Carried to New England.

To the Honourable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

Gov^r and Commander in Chief of the Colony
of Rhode Island

GOVERNOR LAW TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

NEWHAVEN Augth 1745

S^r

I rec^d Yours of July the 5th 1745 and I am now to acquaint you That our Assembly (w^{ch} finished the last night) in coming to a Conclusion to furnish the Garrison att Louisburg with 350 men to abide there till the first of June next unless his Maj^{ty}s pleasure be sooner known, so that they may be dischargd, 200

of w^{ch} to be made up of them w^{ch} are there, and 150 to be raisd and sent to be commanded by three field Officers &c. did Resolve That if your Gov^t would joyn them with an 150 men or more That you should appoint a Maj^r to the Regiment.

I desire therefore, you would lett me know your mind seasonably ab^t that matter that I may conduct my self accordingly in appointing our Officers: in the formar Management I gave a Commission to the Lieu^t Gen^l and Gov^r Shirley gave a Com^a to our Maj^r Gen^l.¹ the like doubtless will be proper for us with respect to this Regiment if you see meet to unite our forces into one Regiment.

I can only inform you That I have at present the Custody of the Counterfeit Plates &c but the men have broke the Goal are fled and as yet not recovered.²

I must also ask the favour of your Hon^r That in Case M^r Robinson should bring forward his Reviews or either of them against me or Esq^r Brenton That it might not be pushd forward before M^r Hall my brother can come thither. I have been and still am likely to be so engagd in this publick Affair that I cannot possibly be personally present at your Court³ and much incumberd in furnishing out M^r Hall, and the Cases are of considerable Consequence to me, and as I know the Case to be honest on my side so I understand it to be even universally rec^d among you. be sure I honestly bargaind and paid my money more than forty years agoe. and for want of fair

¹ Roger Wolcott.

² See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 130.

³ No further reference to this affair has been found.

dealings in the matter I thot my self necessitated to
resign up one third part of my purchase

with my Regards to your self the worthy Dep
Gov^r and the Gentlemen of the Council I Subscribe

Your humble Servant

JONTH LAW

the hon^{ble} Gov^r WANTON

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR PHIPS TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

BOSTON Septem^r 2. 1745

Sir,

In my great hurry the last Post Day, I omitted
sending your Honour a Copy of my Declaration of
War agst the Indians; which I should have been put
in Mind of, if I had had any Answer to my Letter
to You of the 19th of August last¹ (to which I would
now refer you) as I have had Answers from all the
other Neighbouring Governours to my Letters of the
same Date and Import; But as these Governm^{ts} are
all United in Interest and under One Sovereign
Prince, I would hope your Government will not dis-
tinguish themselves by refusing to join with the rest
in Pursuing Proper Measures against the Common
Enemy. I have enclosed Printed Copies of my De-
claration abovementioned and of my Proclamation
for the Encouragement of Voluntiers.

I am Sir

Your Honour's most Obedient humble Servant

PHIPS

The honourable GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

¹ See p. 374.

SIR WILLIAM PEPPERELL TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

Honour^{ble} S^r

I writ you of the 13th ins^t 1 to w^{ch} must refer you, this will waite on you by Cap^t Smith who I take to be a Valueable Gentleman and I make no doubt but that you will give Such orders that the deficiency in the three Companys you sent down here will be made up and hasten^d here for altho' we have no Acco^t of the Frinch Squadron of Man of Warr at present yet we may Expect a Visit from the Frinch from Cannady this Winter, for as this place is of such great consequence to them, we may be assur^d they will do all in their power to Obtaine, therefore I must Arnestly desire that you will hasten down the Sold^{rs} and order the Officers to their posts as I can truly say nothing but the good of my Nation and Countrey that bro^t me here so nothing Else would induce me to tarry, you will not be unmindfull to Send Provishon, Clothing beding &c for the men Sent from y^r Govern^t

I am with best respects Honor^{ble} S^rYour Most Obed^t Hum^{ble} Serv^tW^M PEPPERELLLOUISBOURG Sept^r 20th 1745Hon^{ble} Gov^r WANTON

¹ Printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 143. Pepperell asked for twenty-eight men to supply vacancies in the Rhode Island troops. The Assembly voted the men, as well as provisions for eight months, and £3000 to pay the troops. *Ibid.*, V. 128.

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR PHIPS TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

BOSTON Sept^r 23^d 1745

Sir,

Since mine to your Honour, I have receiv'd a Letter from Gov^r Shirley (a Copy of whereof I inclose you)¹ by which your Honour will see the absolute Necessity of sending Recruits to Louisbourg for preserving that important Place. I must therefore earnestly desire you to send your Quota of Recruits for that Purpose as soon as possible.²

I am Sir,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant

PHIPS

The hon^{ble} GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR PHIPS.³

LOUISBOURG ⁴Septem^r 6. 1745.

Sir

Three Days ago We were Alarmed with a Report that two of the Seven French Ships of War mentioned in my last had been seen very near this Harbour by a Fisherman who said he fell in with one of them and came under her Stern, which from the reason there is to think that Squadron cannot be far off was easily Credited, Dispatches have been sent by the Commodore⁵ and my Self upon this Occasion to Col Mascarene⁶ to Apprize him of the Appear-

¹ See the following document.

² See note to preceding letter.

³ Enclosed with letter of September 23, 1745.

⁴ Shirley arrived at Louisbourg on August 16.

⁵ Commodore Warren,

⁶ Governor of Nova Scotia.

ance of this Armament with our thoughts upon it, and that upon their first notice of their making him a Visit for procuring which proper Care has been taken, he might depend upon Succours being sent from hence to him and as the Commodore has had Intelligence given him that a Scheme is set on foot by the enemy for assembling a Body of Indians and Canadeans very speedily in the neighbourhood of this place to be ready to Surprize it upon the Arrival of any Force from France to joyn 'em, We have the Utmost reason from the Attempts which were formed last year against annapolis Royal and were prevented from being carried into Execution by the Expedition against this place, to expect that a large Body of the Enemy from Canada (whose fate in a great measure depends upon this Islands being recovered from his majesty by next spring) will Winter near us most likely in some part of nova Scotia (as they did last year) and that not only Artillery, Warlike Stores and provisions, but Officers and some Troops will be sent from France this Fall and Rendezvous somewhere in the neighbourhood of this Place in order to make some Attempt upon it by the first opportunity after Commodore Warren with the Squadron under his Command shall leave it, These indeed were my Sentiments before we received the Intelligence and I have already Communicated them from hence to the Governments of Connecticutt and new Hampshire and told them I shall look upon this place as lost if we have not 4000 Troops in it by the middle of march at farthest but it seems to me now not impossible but that even that time may be too late for us

to reinforce the Garrison tho I hope it will not. you will by this Account see the necessity of the 1000 men last Voted to be raised in the massachusetts being Compleated with all possible Dispatch and I doubt not Sir your best Endeavours to forward those Levies before my Return to Boston, In the mean time this will Retard our sending a Detachment to S^t Johns Island to Clear it of the French as We designed before now for I shall not think it advisable to part with 400 men, the number proposed for this Service till we shall have waited a few Days for the Event of our late Intelligence concerning the French Squadron which may possibly by our Advice Consist of 19 Sail.

I am Sir

Your most humble servant

W SHIRLEY

ADMIRAL SIR PETER WARREN TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LOUISBOURG Oct: 23rd 1745.

Sir,

His Grace the Duke of NewCastle has signified to me that his Majesty is determined to provide for the effectual Security of the valuable Acquisition made to his Dominions by the Reduction of this place; and that their Excellencies the Lords Justices have orderd two Regiments to be sent here from Gibraltar for that purpose, with all possible Expedition; but as the Season of the Year is so far advanced as to render it very uncertain whether they will arrive here

this Fall, and as it may be expected that the Enemy will make the earliest and most vigorous Efforts possible next Spring, for the regaining so important a Fortress; and his Majesty having done me the Honour to put it under my Protection, by appointing me Governour¹ hereof and directed me to concert all possible Measures for the Security of it, I take Occasion to represent to You, Sir, that it is intirely necessary for his Majesty's Service, as well as the Honour and Interest of the Colonies that they furnish Troops for the effectual Support of this Garrison till a sufficient Force for that purpose shall arrive from Europe, and that they be sent here as early next Spring as the Season will possibly admit of, (which may probably be the beginning of March at farthest) inasmuch as if the Regiments expected from Gibraltar should not embark this Fall, it is highly probable this place will be closely besieged before they can gain their passage hither, from so distant a place.

As such Precaution is absolutely necessary, I doubt not but your Zeal for his Majesty's Service, and the Interest of your own and the neighbouring Governments in an Affair of so much Consequence will prompt you to use your utmost Endeavours that a proper Quota of Troops from your Government be sent here by the Time proposed. Sir W^m Pepperell and my self are directed to draw Bills on the proper Officers in England for such Expences of this place as we judge necessary for his Majesty's Service, by which we shall have it in our power to pay such

¹ Warren's commission as governor of Louisbourg arrived, with the regiments from Gibraltar, in April, 1746.

Troops as may be sent here from the Colonies for that purpose; and they may be assured that none of them shall be detain'd here contrary to their Will after the Arrival of Troops from Europe sufficient for the Security of the place. They may also depend upon the strictest Justice and all the good Offices in my power: and I make no Doubt but all possible Encouragement will be given to them and Others to settle the Island. If the Troops from Gibraltar should arrive here this Winter I shall give you Notice of it as early as possible, to prevent needless Expence; and I am well persuaded that his Majesty will make full Satisfaction to the Governments that have been, or shall be at any necessary Charge on this Occasion.¹

I am with much Regard, Sir,

Your very humble Servant

P WARREN

Hon^{ble} Governour WANTON.

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 8^{ber} the 30th 1745

Gov^r Wanton

My last to thee was of the 17th Ult to which I refer Since which I am favour'd with thine of the 9th 7^{br} last and Duplicate of that of the 4th July, and

¹ Warren followed this letter with one of November 26 (*Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 148), repeating his request for reinforcements, and in response the Assembly voted, in February, 1746, that the governor write to Sir Peter Warren respecting a quota of men for Louisbourg (*Ibid.*, V. 158), but no troops were voted.

I have also receiv'd the Gold dust per the Eltham Man of War and the £100 Bill of Exchange for Acc^t of the Colony whose Acco^t I shall Credit for the Same and purpose in my next to render Acco^t Sales of it.

As to the Matter relating to Cap^t Hopkins I intend to take care to Enquire about it and accordingly was up at Westminster at the proper Office where such things are Cognizable but miss'd seeing the Gentleman belonging to it So shall go again very Soon.

As to the Affair of the Boundary I have a Petition lodged at the Council Office to the King Praying that the Lords Committees Report may not be stopt and that the Massach^{ts} Petition might not be Countenanced but rejected, which at Present lays as a Bar in the way, a Coppy whereof comes inclosed,¹ I have taken a great deal of Pains to have the Matter forwarded to a Conclusion without this Petition but found it would not do, and now to be sure both Petitions will be referred to the Lords Committee of Course to Consider them and give their Opinion thereupon which I intend to hasten what I can Agreeable to the Colonys Request for I long to have it Over.

The Parliament met the 17th Instant wherein their Time has been pretty much taken up with the Publick Affairs of the Kingdom w^{ch} indeed at this Juncture require their Attention on Account of the Rebellion In Scotland Promoted by the Pretenders Son, who is at their head but the Government have Sent a Considerable Number of Forces against them which

¹ See the following document.

is generally supposed will quell them and Cause them to disperse.

Nothing is yet Moved in the House of Commons about the Paper Currency Bill, I am upon the Watch that when anything of that kind is Stirring there, I shall Exert myself in behalf of the Colony. I think it would be Prudent for the Colony to be Cautious of making or emitting any Quantitys of that Sort at least, for Peoples Mouths will be Open I find in their Exclamations against them, for it may I Doubt be Strenuously urged in Parliam^t to their Disadvantage when ever they begin upon the Bill, this I only recommend as I apprehend for their advantage and Submit it to their Judicious Consideration; I am with due respect

Thy assured Friend

RICHARD PARTRIDGE

9ber 14th 1745.

Since the foregoing I have been again at the Proper Office to Enquire about Cap^t Hopkins Affair and find there that he has actually reced the Sum of Two hundred and Seventeen Pounds $\frac{8}{8}$ Sterl^s for recruiting and I have acquainted them with the Complaints against him, and the Affidavits but they shew'd me a letter from Col^o Gooch which came as I can remember with his Acco^t Inclosed to their Office however I have bespoke a Certiff^t of the Money he reced to send over to thee¹ I am thine as Above

R. P

¹ In the March sessions of 1745 the governor was instructed to write to the agent "respecting the supposed false certificate whereby it is conjectured" that Captain

PETITION OF RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GEORGE II.¹

To George the second King of Great Britain &c. in Council

The humble petition of Richard Partridge Agent for and on behalf of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Sheweth That there has been for a long time a dispute depending between the said Colony and the Province of the Massachusetts Bay touching the Boundary or dividing line betwixt them.

That after many fruitless attempts to adjust and settle the same and after diverse Expensive Hearings in consequence of a Petition to the King in Council for that purpose, a Commission was issued under the great Seale appointing Commiss^{rs} to determine the said disputed Line on the Spot in New England which accordingly was done, and a Return duely made thereof but as neither Party had liberty of Appealing to the King, both sides made their humble Appeal against the said Commissioners Judgment and determination and both the said Appeals were referr'd to the Lords Committees of the Privy Council for hearing Appeals from the Plantations.

That after a great length of time and a most heavy

William Hopkins has received money of the paymaster-general "for forces said to be enlisted on the Cuba expedition." *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 108.

The reference is evidently to Captain William Hopkins, of one of the Rhode Island companies, who went to the West Indies in the Spanish war of 1740. Hopkins was sent home by General Wentworth to raise recruits for filling up Colonel Gooch's regiment, and his instructions will be found enclosed with a letter from Wentworth to Governor Ward, dated August 12, 1741. See also letters of February 2 and October 8, 1742.

¹ Enclosed with letter of October 30, 1745.

Expense the said Appeals came on and were Sol-
emnly heard by the said Lords Committees at four
severall long hearings, and their Lordships agreed
to Report their Oppinion for the Affirmance of the
Commissioners Determination made upon the Spot
without any Variation from the same, at which hear-
ings the Counsel for the Massachusetts had full lib-
erty of urging every Matter and of giving their
Lordships all the light in the Affair which they
thought fitt.

That altho the said determination deprived the
Petitioners of more than two thirds of what they
had before conceived to belong to them, Yet they
(as they allways have done) held themselves dutifully
bound to Submit to their Lordships wise and equall
Report and never entertained a thought of doing
otherwise.

That they said Lords Committees Report to the
King was accordingly drawn up and the Petition-
ers were exceedingly concerned that several Gen-
eral Councils should successively pass and the said
Report not be layd (in the constant Method of pro-
ceeding) before the King in Council for the Royal
Pleasure thereon whereby this dispute of so great
Expencc and of more than Fourscore Years con-
tinuance might at length be brought to a Period.

But upon enquiry into the Cause thereof the Peti-
tioners have been informed that one while a Petition
to the said Lords Committee to stop their said Re-
port was presented by the Massachusetts which after-
wards they thought fit to drop and that an other of
the like kind has since that time been presented the
King in Council.

That thy Petitioners most humbly conceive that such an Application affects the Common Course of Justice in Matters judicially depending before the King in Council upon Appeals from the Plantations and wou'd be a precedent of the most dangerous and mischievous Consequence, as it would make Causes endless and render the determinations of the Lords of the Committee vain, and of no manner of import, after so much time taken up therein, besides the Grievous Expence and Inconveniences that the keeping open this Matter wou'd occasion to the Petitioners.

Thy Petitioners therefore most humbly pray That the said Petition of the Agent for the Province of the Massachusetts Bay against the said Report of the Lords Committee may not be countenanced or admitted to have any influence in putting any further stop to it, but it may be rejected as a precedent of the most dangerous Consequence and that the said Report of the Lords of the Committee in the said Appeals may be layd before the King in Council for the Royal Pleasure in the same manner as, and according to the Constant Course of Proceeding in all other Judicial Appeals whatsoever.

All which is humbly Submitted

R P

LONDON. 28. Octo: 1745

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR PHIPS TO GOVERNOR WANTON.¹

BOSTON December 2. 1745

Sir,

The inland Frontiers of this Province are from their situation so much exposed to the french and Indian Enemy, that the Governm^t are obliged to be almost continually employed in protecting, or executing Methods for the Security or Defence of the Inhabitants; And I apprehend the Governm^t of Rhode Island are concerned in the same Cause for the Protection of his Maj^{ty}s Subjects who more immediately are exposed to the Assaults of the common Enemy, and will readily join with the other Governments in his Majesty's Service for carrying on the War against them; Indeed at the beginning of the french War there seem'd to be so much of a peaceable Disposition in the several Tribes of Indians that the People of this Province began to flatter themselves they should remain in some degree of Security, and be free from the Calamities they had suffer'd in former Wars, but they soon found themselves disappointed, and the Indians under the Influence of the French, notwithstanding all their Engagements to the contrary, perpetrated many Acts of Hostility and Barbarity, which render'd it absolutely necessary for me to declare War against them, a Copy of which Declaration I immediately sent to your Honour.

I have lately by Expresses² from the Western Parts

¹ See letters of January 27 and February 15, 1746.

² See the following letter of Governor Clinton, which (having no address) is inserted here, because it would probably be sent to the Massachusetts executive, and by him forwarded to the other New England colonies.

of the Province been inform'd that a large Body of the same Enemy have fallen upon the Frontiers of the Province of New York, and kill'd and carried away captive a great Number of the Inhabitants. This Proceeding will, I doubt not, induce your Honour likewise to a Declaration of War against them, and will also influence the People of your Colony readily to come into measures for prosecuting such a War in an effectual manner. Upon my communicating the Contents of these Expresses to the Assembly of this Province, they have desired me to write to your Honour, and acquaint you that they are (as they always have been) in a disposition to concert Measures with the Governments of New York, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island for their mutual Protection, either by appointing Commissioners to treat for that Purpose with such as may be appointed by the other Governments, to meet on the Borders of this Province or in Connecticut or any other Place that may be agreed on, or by any other ways and means that may be thought more proper.

It has long been the Opinion of the People of this Province that the best method of prosecuting the War and the most effectual Way to secure our own Frontiers will be to distress and annoy the Frontiers of the Enemy, for it is certain that with the Assistance of the Indians in our Interest we can do equal and greater Mischief to the French Frontiers (which are settled in a scatter'd and defenceless manner) than they can do to ours; and I doubt not we should soon tire them of carrying on the War in

this barbarous inhuman manner; and if they will come with an Army and fight us in a fair open manner we are able and ready to meet them. There seems likewise to be greater reason now than ever to act offensively against them, as they have unjustly extended their Settlements, and built a strong Fort in the heart of that Country, which by the Treaty of Utrecht¹ is expressly determin'd to belong to the Crown of Great Britain, and if not interrupted they will in time grow to be most formidable Neighbours to these Governments.

These are Points which I thought it necessary, and am desir'd by the Assembly to write your Honour upon, and I pray you to communicate them to the Assembly of your Colony, and that I may be favour'd with an Answer, that so I may lay the same before our Assembly at their next Meeting, which I expect will be after a very short Recess.

I am Sir,

Your Honours most obedient humble Servant

PHIPS

P. S. I receiv'd your Honour's Letter of the 29th of Nov^r by the Post

The hon^{ble} GIDEON WANTON Esq^r

¹ The treaty of Utrecht (1713) declared that the "Five Nations" were subject to the dominion of England, and the English interpreted that to mean not only the original territory of the Iroquois, but their conquests — north to the Ottawa River, and west to the Mississippi.

LETTER OF GOVERNOR CLINTON.¹

NEW YORK 25 Nov. 1745

Sir

I received an Express last Tuesday from Albany that Saraghtoge (a Settlement of this province Bordering upon your Frontiers) was cutt off by a party of French and Indians, I had too great reason to believe this would be our Fate and upon my Return from Albany I sent the Assembly a message to guard timely ag^t it and even now sent them another message with this News wherein among other Things I desired that immediate encouragement should be given to the Indians of the six nations to go to War upon my orders to which they have paid no greater Regard than Voting a Fort to be built in the Carrying Place² to be garrisoned with a 100 Men and Covered wth 200 men while a Building

Last night I received another Express acquainting me with the Damage that place has Sustained with the Numbers of the Dead and those taken prisoners which I herewith Inclose and to which I can now only Refer the Assembly having the Consequence of this Invasion under their Consideration.

I now begin to hope the Assembly will become Sensible of the Danger We are in by this Insult and that they will provide properly for our Defence in

¹ Enclosed with letter of December 2, 1745.

² The Great Carrying Place, between the Hudson and the head of Lake George. The English built a fort there in 1709, which was twice rebuilt, and finally received the name of Fort Edward, by which the town which occupies its site is known to-day.

Conjunction with our Neighbours of which I shall
send you Notice by the first Opportunity

I am Sir

Your very humble Servant

G CLINTON

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON xber the 25. 1745

Govr. Wanton

My last to thee was of the 10th Inst to which I
refer having nothing to add respecting the Affairs
of the Colony at present ; but can hardly forbear
writing to thee as the Nation is so embroiled with
intestine Wars and threatnings from abroad too
from our Common Enemy, believing it w^d not be un-
acceptable to thee to have frequent advices at this
critical Juncture.

Since My former lett^r the Rebels have been march-
ing back with great pricipitation and confusion tow^{ds}
Scotland pursued by the Duke of Cumberland wth
about 4000 horse who a few days since in the Even-
ing came up wth their Rear a party of abo^t 2000. and
had a short Skirmish with them wherein the Rebels
lost about 30. and 70 taken prison^{rs} and the rest made
their escape in fav^r of the night carrying off their
Wounded wth them tow^{ds} Carlisle where its supposd
they were (when the last acco^t came) with their main
Body ; The Duke expecting his ffoot coming up and
to be joynd by 1000 more from Wades Army in-

tends to go and attack them if they dont march off before he comes up.¹

The French at Dunkirk are yet continuing their preparations for an Invasion upon us wth abo^t 12 to 15000 Men. and 100 Transports but we have a consid^{ble} number of M: of War in the Downs under the Command of Adm^l Vernon who keeps constantly sending out to gain intelligence and has a watchful Eye over them; a pretty many other Men of War, Armed Vessells and Privateers are employd to and again who have taken and destroy'd 8 or 9 of their Transport Vessells — where the Storm is likely to fall we can't tell yet, but its supposed it will be some where on the Coast of Sussex.

We have lately a very good ps of News and confirmed in the Gazette w^{ch} is that there is a Treaty of Peace actually concluded and Signed between the Queen of Hungary, the King of Poland, and the King of Prussia, at the mediation of our King² w^{ch} is expected will be attended with very good consequences for us.

And we have an Express from Adm^l Townsend in the West Indies that he has taken and destroyd 30. of the Enemys Ships near Martinico.³ The Cape Briton Fleet wth the Span: prize money and the 2 French East India Men are lately safe arrived at

¹ The Young Pretender took Carlisle on November 15, and went as far south as Derby in Lancashire.

² England signed a preliminary convention with Prussia, for the purpose of reëstablishing peace, on August 26, 1745. The treaty of Dresden was signed December 25.

³ This action took place off the southern end of Martinique, from October 31 to November 2. The greater part of the fleet was made up of merchantmen under the convoy of five or six men-of-war. Two of the latter were disabled, and many traders captured. *Gent. Mag.* (1745), p. 629.

Plym^o as are also all our Fleet from the East Indies in the Downs abo^t 14. Sayl wth very valuable Cargoes.

Cap^t Craigie lately bound hence to Boston was taken by the French in his passage wth a Cargo on bo^d sayd to be worth upw^{ds} of £20000. is retaken and bro^t into Bristol — but the Privat^{ers} of the Enemy have of late taken and car^d off a pretty many of our Merch^t Men from one Place or other.

No alteration in the Ministry lately. a good understanding is between the King and his Parliam^t and a very great and gen^l harmony and Unanimity seems to be among the People throughout Engl^d agst the Rebellion. nothing done yet this Sessions about the paper Currency Bill in the House of Commons.

Pursuant to the Resolution of the H^o of Commons last year most of the Cap^{ts} and inferiour Officers of the Fleet who were complained of as delinquents in the Engagem^t off of Toulon have been Tryed by a Court Martial but none Capitally convicted — the greatest punishm^t any of 'em were sentenced to (as I remember) has been to be casheerd, rendered incapable of Serving his Maj^{ty} for the future and one mulct a year or two^s pay. Neither of the Two Admirals Mathews or Lestock have passed their Tryals yet ¹

Yours with respects

Thy assured Friend

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

The following is a paragraph taken out of one of our late news papers — viz

¹ See note to letter of February 23, 1744.

London. Of the five great Branches of the French Trade it is observed that the 1st That to (East) Indies has bro^t in scarce any thing since the beginning of the War while the (our) East India Comp^a have been so fortunate as not to loose one Ship.

That the 2^d To the Sug^r Islands of America must be almost ruined by Adm^l Townsends Success after the numberless losses it had before sustained.

That the 3^d to the Newfoundl^d Islands and River of S^t Lawrence we may make our selves intire Mast^{rs} off by the possession of Cape Briton.

and That the 4th To the Levant must have greatly suff^d by our Mediteranean Fleet.

The Affrican Trade w^{ch} is made the 5th depends so much upon the American as the great Mart for Slaves, that it will not be worth keeping if we drive them out of the latter. Is it not more than probable therefore that the Trade of Great Britain will revive and encrease in proposition to what her Enemys have been hurt if a proper care be but taken after the present Convulsions are over.

27th ditto

Inclosed is a News paper of this day with some further particulars to which I refer

11th mo. the 8. 1745

As the foregoing Copy of 25 ult is not yet sent away I have drawn out the Colonys acco^t w^{ch} comes inclosed the Ball^a whereof is £438.15.5 Sterl in my favour and nothing chargd therein towards Any parliamentary Affairs this year yet, w^{ch} must come in

my next acco^t. Paris the Solicitor having already sent me in a Bill for £53.4.6 relating thereto since last year the greatest part of w^{ch} is for money he paid for Copys of Papers from the Board of Trade preparatory to our defence against the Paper Currency Bill when they begin upon it in the H^o of Commons — and as there will be a further call on me for money I must desire a further Supply from the Colony which I hope they will take due care of accordingly

The Affair of the Boundary lays as it did, I have been earnestly pressing it forward both by word of mouth and writing, and am now promised that it shall be consid^d and laid before the L^o Chief Justice at the very next Comittee, that is as to the Report whether our petitions abo^t it must be referrd to the Committee or not, so we must yet have further patience unavoidably especially as times are at present circumstanced with the Ministry in respect to the Troubles of the Kingdom.

The Rebels to the Numb^r of abo^t 7000. wth the Young Pret^r are now driven back into Scotland again in the same Rout they came, by the Duke of Cumberland^d except what were taken and lost by the way. They left about 400. Rebels in Possession of Carlisle w^{ch} held out but a few days before it was retaken by the Duke and they all made prison^{rs}. We are sending a formidable Army into Scotl^d to encounter the Rebels there.

As for the Invasion expected from France nothing of it has appeared on any of our Coasts yet and I hope there is no great danger from them as we

seem to be prepared against them both by Sea and Land

I am

Thy assured Friend

R.^d PARTRIDGE

The French have now stopt the Dutch Ships in sev^l parts of France and doubtless will soon proclaim War agst them. a packet wth News I send to And^r Oliver Esq^r of Boston to forward to thee.

To the Governour and Company of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

GOVERNOR CLINTON TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

NEW YORK 27. January 174⁸.

Sir

Persuant to my Recommendation to the Council and Assembly to make provision for the Appointment of Commissioners for this province to treat with Such Commissioners as are or shall be appointed by the Neighbouring Governments, upon Concerting Measures for our mutual Security Defence and Conduct during the present War, Committees of both Houses have Conferred upon the Subject matter thereof, and requested me to appoint Commissioners for that purpose, who are to make Report of their proceedings with their Opinions thereupon, That such measures may be taken Jointly with the Several Governments, as shall be Judged most expedient.

They have likewise desired me to represent to the

Several Governments upon the Continent the Wavering Disposition of the Indians,¹ and the fatal Consequences which may arise to all the Colony's in General in Case they Shou'd be withdrawn from their Fidelity and Dependance upon the British Interest: Whereupon there seems to be an absolute Necessity for the Colony's uniting their Endeavours at all Events, to secure the Indians Effectually in our Interests at this Critical Conjuncture, as the Enemy leave no Artifice untryed to seduce them, having many Jesuitical Emissarys constantly residing amongst them; and should they at Length prevail with them to Revolt, the Frontiers of the Respective Colonys Subject To His Majesty, must lye Open and exposed to the Insults of the ffrench and Savages.

As a Union of Councils from the Several Governments is thought to be the most likely means of Defeating the Designs of so barbarous an Enemy, and Advancing the Common Cause of His Majestys Subjects upon the Continent, I doubt not, but you will think proper to Communicate this Representation to your Council and Assembly, and Recommend it to them to follow the like Example with this Government that Commissioners may be Appointed by you to Answer such Laudable Ends.²

A Pilot boat is just come up and acquaints me of one of the Giberalter Transports being at the

¹ The Six Nations.

² The Assembly voted that the governor should answer Clinton's letter (*Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 157), and in May measures were taken for appointing two commissioners to treat with those of the other colonies. *Ibid.*, V. 169. See also the following letter.

Hook with 200 Men on board for Louisbourg parted with the fleet 8 dayes ago and that Adm^l Rowley had taken Genoa. which I give you Joy off and am Sir

Your obedient humble Servant

G CLINTON

Governour of Rhode Island

GOVERNOR WANTON TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.¹

NEWPORT RHODE ISLAND Feb^y 15th 1748.

Sir

I am favour'd with yours of the 27th of January Informing me of the wavering disposition of the Indians and the fatal Consequences that may arise to all the Colonies in General in case they should be withdrawn from their fidelity and dependance upon the British Interest and according to your request I have laid the Same before the General Assembly of this Colony and recommended it to their Consideration: who have directed me to acquaint your Excellency that they are heartily Concern'd that the neighbouring Governments are So much Expos'd to the Insults of the French and Indian Enemies and are willing to Contribute anything in their Power to Secure the Indians in our Interest: but as this Small Colony by its Scituation is Exceedingly Expos'd to the Attacks of the Enemy by Sea we are yearly at a very Considerable Expense for its protection and

¹ See note to preceding letter.

defense and have also been at a vast Expence the last Summer in sending our Colony's Sloop fully mann'd and three Companies of Soldiers to Join the forces Sent against Cape Breton. Which Soldiers Still remain in Garrison at Louisbourg in the pay of this Colony in order to preserve that most valuable Acquisition and prevent its falling again into the hands of the French. So that it is utterly out of our Power to give any great assistance at present *but are willing to do as much as is reasonable in our present Circumstances* towards preserving his Majesty's Interest and the Security of the neighbouring Colonies: when Your Excellency or the Commissioners Appointed by you Shall Acquaint us what Shall be thought proper on our part to be done. they agree with you that a union of Councils from the Several Governments is the Most likely means to defeat the designs of So barbarous an Enemy and advancing the Common Cause of his Majesty's Subjects on the Continent but As your Excellency has not Acquainted us of any time or place for the meeting of the Commissioners of the respective Colonies to Consult proper Measures for that purpose: the General Assembly did not think it necessary to Appoint any Commissioners at present Untill they hear what proposals Shall be made On this Occasion. this sir is what I am directed by the General Assembly to Inform you. and am with great respect

Your Excellency's

Most humble and most obedient Servant

GOVERNOR LAW TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

MILFORD March 3^d 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.S^r

I have given Orders for the fitting our Sloop Defence for the Seas and should be exceeding glad if yours and ours might Cruise in Consort as in times past,¹ if any Privateer should come on our Coast 'tis likely they will come pretty strong I am S^r

Your faithfull friend and obliged humble Servant

JONTH LAW

To the Hon^{ble} Gov^r WANTON

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

LONDON 1st month the 10th 174 $\frac{1}{2}$.*Gov^r. Wanton*

My last to thee was of the 14th Ult. when I wrote thee needfull of the Colonys Affairs per Cap^t Bradford Via Whitehaven to which I referr, since wich I have had none of thy favours and indeed I thinck I have never Yet rec^d any more than two from thee viz: of 4 July and 9th 7ber last, but if thou didst write probably they may have misscarryed, the greatest part of the Ships from N: E: this Winter having been taken by the French.

The Petitions which I inform'd thee were lodged at the Council Office concerning the Lords Committees Report are now referr'd by the King in Council

¹ It was voted in May that the governor should request that the colony sloop of Connecticut might cruise with the *Tartar* from Martha's Vineyard to Sandy Hook, until October 1. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 168.

to the Consideration of the Lords Committee and I am now Pressing to have a motion made for a day to be appointed accordingly when I shall hope for our desired Success.

As for Publick News the Rebellion is kept alive Still in the North part of Scotland where the Duke with the Kings Forces are pursuing them,¹ for the rest I referr to, the Prints Inclosed, and to a Packett of them which I send per this Conveyance, for thee to be forwarded by a private hand from Boston per Andrew Oliver Esq^r and Company and Remain

Thy Assured Friend

R. P.

2^d month the 7. 1746

This comes per a Ship via N. York just to acknowledge the Receipt of thy Packet by way of Holland w^{ch} altho is dated the 20: xber yet it came to my hands but this day, and am glad to see that the Colony have so well vindicated themselves from the ill-natured Aspertions thrown out against them in the Matter of the Expedition against Cape Briton w^{ch} I shall not fail to make a proper use of as there shall be occasion.²

As to the Acco^t of the Expençe the Colony have been at in the Said Expedition I intend properly to exhibit the Same in ord^r to obtain Paym^t, But the Massach^{ts} Agents I find meet with a pretty deal of

¹ The defeated rebels were pursued into the Highlands.

² See the governor's letter of July 26, 1745; also that to Partridge of December 20, printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 145, and a certificate obtained from Roger Wolcott, major-general of the Cape Breton expedition, *Ibid.*, V. 155.

difficulty respecting their demands and cannot yet get liberty from the Ministry to throw their Petition into Parliam^t but are in daily expectaⁿ of it, and I don't see how any thing can be obtained without that method as there is at present no ffund out of which that money can be issued, The present Exigencys of Publick Affairs, the great demand for money on acco^t of the War and the Rebellion will make it the harder for us to obtain what wo^d otherwise doubtless be readily granted.

As to the Boundary Affair it is not yet brought to an issue, Lord Chief Justice Willes being gone on the Circuit: both our Petitions are now to be considered by the Lords Committee: of this more in my next w^{ch} I intend by Cap^t Shors in the Neptune directly for Rhode Island who I suppose will Saile in 2 weeks time.

I beleive it will be expected that I sh^d produce an Authority in writing from the Govern^r and Compa^y under the Seal to empower me as yo^r Agent to apply to the Kings Ministers and Parliam^t to receive the Money for the Expence on the Expedition, and to give a discharge or discharges for the same in behalf of the Colony. And probably also that the Acco^{ts} Sh^d be signed as approved off by Admiral Vernon or the Comanding Officer at Cape Briton and by Gen^l Pepperrell, for I know by experience they are pretty exact and Strict in such Cases here, and bare letters not Sufficiently regarded: therefore it w^d be well to send at least the aforementioned Authority to me as soon as possible, and in the mean time I intend to prosecute the Matter in Parlia-

ment when once the Massach^{ts} Petition is exhibited in the H^o of Commons, their demand being very large w^{ch} I hear is abo^t £150,000, N E: Currency

I am Thy assured Friend

R. P.

I wish thou hadst sent me the dates of my letters w^{ch} Thou rec^d for my Satisfaction

2^d month the 16.

Since the foregoing the Lords Committee have appointed the 19th Inst for a hearing of Council upon our Petitions concerning the Boundary Cause and we are preparing for it accordingly, and probably I may by this conveyance have time to advise thee of the Result if the appointed time holds.¹

And now understanding the Massach^{ts} Affair relating to their Expence in the Expedition ags^t Cape Briton is likely to be consid^d by the Lords of the Council some time next week, I have drawn up a Petition² to the King in Coun^t and have this day lodgd it at the Council Office together wth Copys of Adm^l Warrens and Gen^l Pepperells Lett^{rs} and of Maj^r Gen^l Walcotts Certiff^t in favour of yo^r Colony in ord^r that they may come under the Consideration of the S^d Ld^s Committee at the Same time, and was this morning before that with the Duke of Newcastle and left with him a Copy of my Petition who promised to lay it before the King, but after all I am perswaded nothing will be done in it for us till we exhibit our Petitions in Parliament but we must

¹ The final report was issued on April 21.

² See the following document.

not do that till we have leave from the Ministry for that purpose and whether it will be this Sessions or next we are uncertain, but depend upon my diligence in conducting this Affair in the most prudent manner I am capable off. inclosed is Copy of my s^d Petition: its pitty thou didst not send me a Copy of the Duke of N. Castles Order to assist Comod^r Warren w^{ch} thou mentionst came to hand the 12 July last,¹ please to send it me per first [opportunity] for it may be of good Service in the Solicitcⁿ

The Rebellion in the North of Scotl^d seems now to be pretty well reduced as thou wilt find by the Prints herewith sent to w^{ch} I refer and remain

as before R^d PARTRIDGE

To The Governour and Company of the Colony
of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

PETITION OF RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO THE CROWN.²

*To George the second King of Great Britain &c^a in
Council*

The humble Petition of Richard Partridge Agent for the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations in New England.

Sheweth That the said Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations which is a Government but of small extent in New England, joyned their assistance to the utmost of their ability with the

¹ The order is printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 132.

² Enclosed with preceding letter.

other Governments of New England in the late Expedition against Cape Breton in sending their Colony Sloop of War Cap^t Fones with all Necessary Warlike stores and well manned to help convoy their Forces thither wherein she was of Singular Service at the hazard of their own Sea Coast unguarded and the Navigation exposed to the Enemys Privateers from the beginning of April to the latter end of October during which time she was in the Service, And altho the said Colony had been drained of Men not long since by enlisting and sending 250 Men in the Expedition against Carthagena of whom Scarce twenty returned, Yet with some difficulty they raised Three Companys of men for the said Expedition against Cape Briton, who (although the News of the Surrender of Louisbourg had reached Boston before their Transports sailed with them from thence (having lain some days for Convoy) proceeded on the Voyage and are now in Garrison there

Since which the said Colony have lately sent a Vessel to Louisbourg with Cloathing and Provisions sufficient for their Support: And on notice that Seamen were wanted to Man the Vigilant Man of War of 60 Guns (a Prize taken from the French,) the said Colony voted the raising Two hundred men for that Service allowing a large Bounty for their encouragement to enlist; but such was the difficulty notwithstanding, that they could raise but Seventy four Seamen; and they have since received Admiral Warrens Letter of thanks for those Men which they sent thither, with an Acknowledgment also for the good Service which Cap^t Fones (of their Colonys

Sloop of War) had done, as also General Pepperrells Letter advising the Arrival at Louisbourg of the said three Companies of the Colonys Men there.

That thy Petitioner is informed that the whole Island of Cape Breton with the other Islands thereto belonging have been by the indefatigable Pains, bravery, Courage, and Conduct of the Land Forces sent thither, together with the assistance of the British Men of War arriving in due time, intirely reduced to the Crown of Great Britain, which is well known to be of Prodigious advantage to this Kingdom in general and particularly to the Merchants and Traders who carry on the Commerce to those Parts, in that it will be a considerable Nursery for our Seamen, vast quantitys of our Woollen and other Manufactures will be wanted and taken off in time to come to furnish the Natives who (whilst we have Possessions of that Place) cannot be Supplied as they Used to be from France; and that the Fish Trade (which must be very great) will almost wholly fall into our own hands to supply Portugal, Italy, and Spain, the produce whereof will always centre in this Kingdom, And on the other hand it will greatly distress and prejudice our Common Enemy and prevent their harbouring of Privateers to annoy our Trade that way.

That since the Acquisition of the said Island there have been diverse very great and valuable Prizes already taken by means thereof, by the Kings Men of War, amounting (as thy Petitioner hath been informed) to the Value of Six hundred thousand Pounds Sterling and upwards which being made Prizes of at Sea before they had got into the Harbour of Louis-

bourg (whether they were bound) the whole value belongs to the Sea Officers, and Captors, and no part thereof to the Land Forces.¹

That thy Petitioner hath lately received from the Governour of the said Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, an Account Authenticated of their Expence in the said Expedition, amounting to the Sum of Thirty Six Thousand and Ninety Six Pounds one Shilling and two Pence of their Currency, exclusive of the Province of the Massachusetts and the other New England Colonys Charge of the said Expedition; and also exclusive of the Charge of an other Armed Vessell of War which was fitted out at a great Expence. £7000, whereof was Subscribed towards it by Merchants and others of the said Colony of Rhode Island in a private Capacity which was sent to assist in the said Expedition and no part thereof brought in the said Colonys Account.

And that thy Petitioner hath Instructions from the said Governour to make Application here for the Reimbursments of their said Expence.

Wherefore thy Petitioner humbly prays that thou wouldst be pleased to take the Premises into thy Royal Consideration and grant the said Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations such relief therein for what they have disbursed as aforesaid, as the King in his Wisdom shall See meet.

All which is humbly submitted

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

LONDON 2^d month on April 15th 1746

¹ See a list of prizes taken between March 31, 1744, and April, 1746, in the *Gent. Mag.* (1746), p. 270. The captures made off Louisbourg are estimated at £101,600.

GOVERNOR CLINTON TO GOVERNOR WANTON.

NEW YORK 31. March 1746.

Sir

I acquainted you the 27 January last,¹ that Committees of both Houses had Requested me to appoint Commiss^{rs} to treat with Commissioners to be appointed by the Neighbouring Governments, touching our mutual Security and defence during the present War. I have accordingly appointed Commissioners for that purpose, So has Governour Shirley, and I hope the like Steps will be taken by your Government without delay. In the mean time I've Inclosed Abstracts of the Minutes of the Commissioners of Indian affairs of 25 February last, Containing the Resolution of the six Nations of Indians, as Signified by the Interpreter, in Answer to my Message, requiring them to Enter into the War with us, against the French and Indians in Alliance with them, that it may appear to you, how highly it imports the several Colonys upon the Continent, to Unite their Endeavours with this, Effectually to preserve the Six Nations, and the other Indians in Alliance with us, and them, in their Fidelity to his Majesty, and Dependance upon the British Interest, as all are so nearly Concerned in the Consequences of their Revolt, which seems next to be Apprehended, since they have refused engaging in the War.

I am very much Sir

Your obedient humble servant

G. CLINTON

The Hono^{ble} GID^N WANTON Esq^r

¹ See letter of that date; also of May 26, 1746.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.¹

BOSTON May 12. 1746

Sir,

As His Excellency Governour Clinton of New York has sent Circular Letters to the several Governours on the Continent as far as Virginia, to propose a Convention of Commissioners from each Government to consult upon Measures for carrying on the War against the Common Enemy. And I find no other Fruit of this seasonable Proposal so much for the Honour of his Majesty's Government and the Safety of his Subjects, but the chearful and ready Compliance of this Single Province (who have chosen Commissioners for this Purpose) I think my self obliged in common Humanity to my fellow Subjects (who are daily suffering under this bloody and savage War) as well as in Duty to his Majesty, to second these Proposals of Mr. Clinton with my earnest Solicitations that this Affair may be once more seriously considered by the several Governments in all its Circumstances²

It is well known that such is the Situation of the French in these Northern Parts (where they have not one single Port) and such the Superior Strength of the English; that by the ordinary Blessing of Providence upon our vigourous Endeavours their Destruction would be inevitable; but if the Places that are now free from any immediate Danger by the French and Indians on the Land part, will be

¹ Elected in May, 1746.

² For the action of the Assembly, see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 169.

deaf to all the Solicitations from the Colonies, that are most deeply affected with this War, for Succour in their distressed State; In a short Time the Enemy will in all probability depopulate such unhappy deserted Provinces, and then those who now think themselves in Security will feel the Miseries of this bloody War and too late repent of the Neglect of their own Interests as well as their Disregard to their fellow Subjects. And what is greatly to be lamented in our present Case is that with all the Advantages We have over our Enemies, yet for want of an union of Councils among our selves (which renders us contemptible in the Eyes of the Indians) the French who are weak in themselves, but in the strictest Combination with one another, and the Savages that dwell among or near them, are like to bring the Six most powerful Nations of Indians, on this Continent, (which have hitherto from Time immemorial been firmly attached to the English Government) over into their Interest.

In this Situation of Our Affairs, We can have no prospect of any thing but Misery and Desolation, unless the Several Governments will join in the firmest League against the Common Enemy and carry on the War with Vigour and Resolution, and then we may hope for the Blessing of Divine Providence to render our Designs successfull. I must therefore intreat your Honour to lay this Matter before your Assembly and to do all in your Power to Spirit

them up to Resolutions becoming the Character of English men

I am with great Regard Sir

Your Honour's most Obed^t humble Servant

W SHIRLEY.

The Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

GOVERNOR CLINTON TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

NEW YORK 26 May 1746.

Sir

I have Received Your Favour of the 20th Instant,¹ Acquainting me with the appointment of Commissioners in your Government to treat with such Commiss^{rs} as are or may be appointed by other Governments upon this Continent for their mutual Security and Defence against the Enemy; which I conceive is a measure of the last Importance in regard to the Common Cause, as the French and their Indians are so Enterprizing and barbarous upon our Frontiers; and I should have been glad, if You had sent me the Names of Your Commissioners, that the Commiss^{rs} appointed by me might have entered upon a Correspondence by this Post about the time and Place of Convention with which I hope You'll acquaint me by return of the Post, that no time may be lost in bringing about a General Meeting. In the mean time I conceive some part of this Province, somewhat remote from this City may be thought a Place agree-

¹ Not in the archives. Stephen Hopkins and William Ellery were appointed. See *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 169, 170.

able to all Partys, as it tends rather to the Center. Especially as Merryland has absolutely refused, I have but little hopes of Vergina or Phillidelphi. I am sir

Your very humble serv^t

G CLINTON.

The Hon^{ble} Gov^r of Rhode Island.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON May 29th 1746

Sir,

I send your Honour by Express a Packet directed to you, and delivered to me (with others to the rest of the Govern^{rs} in North America) by Captⁿ Townley Commander of his Majesty's Sloop the Hinchbrook sent hither for bringing his Majesty's Orders to the said Governours for raising a sufficient Number of Soldiers to assist in an Expedition, his Majesty has set on foot for the Reduction of Canada; A full Account whereof I presume is contain'd in your Letter.¹

And as your Government has born so little of the Charge of the War hitherto, in Comparison with the Burthen which the other three Provinces in New England have sustain'd; And the general Advantage of Success in this Affair will be so great to it

¹ The Duke of Newcastle's letter to the colony, of April 9, 1746, is printed in the *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 162. It notifies the colony that five battalions, under General St. Clair, are to sail for Louisbourg, to be joined with the regulars there, and as many colonial troops as may be raised, for the reduction of Canada.

I presume your Assembly will engage in it with the utmost Alacrity, And I can have no Doubt but that your Honour will do every thing in your Power to excite such a Spirit in them on this Occasion as will highly recommend them to his Majesty's Favour; And I dare undertake for the Massachusetts that nothing will be wanting on their Part that is fit, or possible to be done by them

I am with great Regard Sir,
Your Honours most obedient humble Servant
W SHIRLEY.

It is my Opinion that a body of 6000 Men at least should enter the Enemy's Country by the way of Albany; and that the Colonies ought to raise 10,000 among 'em in order to proceed in the propos'd Plan; and I shall act in this Governm^t accordingly.¹

The hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON May 30. 1746

Sir,

I send this by Express, to Acquaint your Honour that I thought it very necessary for preventing Intelligence going to the Enemy of the intended Ex-

¹ Three hundred men were raised, to be sent, with the *Tartar* as convoy, to Louisbourg. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 172. The troops promised by Newcastle never came. They were sent to Portsmouth, and after some delays, ordered on a fruitless expedition against the coast of France. Shirley was informed that the demands of the European war made an expedition against Canada impossible, and ordered to get rid of the provincial levies (of which there were some 7000 at Louisbourg) on account of the expense. Parkman's *A Half Century of Conflict*, II. 169, 171, 172.

pedition,¹ that all the French men, that may be suspected as likely to carry or send such Intelligence, should be immediately confined; and also that all small Vessels that may be employed for such a Business should be stop'd; And therefore I have by Advice of his Majesty's Council here given out such Orders with respect to this Government, And do earnestly recommend to your Honour to use the same Caution in your Government and that as soon as may be.

I am Sir

Your Honour's most Obedient humble Servant

W SHIRLEY

The hon^{ble} Governour GREENE

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 3^d mo. the 31. 1746

To the Gov^r. Rhode Isl^d &c^a

Agreeable to what I lately advised of our Success at last in our Boundary Cause we have obtained an Order of the King in Council for affirming the Lords Committees Report and Judgm^t under the Privy Seal w^{ch} comes here inclosed and doubt not but it will be very satisfactory to the Colony.

It will now be necessary upon receipt of this Order immediatly to run and mark out these lines in order finally to close the Contest; If the Massach^{ts} Bay

¹ See letter of May 29.

would authorise Some persons to meet in order jointly to mark out the Boundary it w^d be best, But as they may be out of humour and may decline it, So the business sh^d not be omitted if that sh^d be the Case) but I think it had best be done by the Colony alone rather than not to be done at all.¹

I hope now the Colony will consider me as I have heretofore had some assurances given me which I must however Submit to their Judicious Consideration, And our Sol^r Paris expects they will consider him also with a gratuity over and above his Bill of Costs, for that in the Course of the Transaction of the Affair he has been really diligent and labourd Industriously therein and was also instrumental in our procuring what we have obtained of our Rights more than the Gore of Land. I send this at a venture to meet Cap^t Adams in the Downs who is bound to Boston so shall not enlarge but remain with due Respects

Thy Faithful friend

R^D PARTRIDGE

To The Governour and Company
of the Colony of Rhode Island Providence
Plantations

¹ Massachusetts refused to appoint surveyors to run the line, whereupon the Rhode Island men laid out the boundary by themselves, and the questions raised by their proceeding were not settled until the nineteenth century. For the act appointing commissioners see *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 197, 199. Also Shirley's letter of January 5, 1747.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON June 2. 1746

Sir,

I herewith inclose a Proclamation which I have issued for raising Voluntiers for the intended Expedition, by which your Honour will perceive the Spirit of Our General Assembly and the Disposition which they have shewn to give the utmost Encouragement for promoting this Undertaking,¹ which, considering what We have done and suffered in the late Expedition against Cape Breton, is beyond what I could have expected from them; I hope your Assembly (who have done so little in the last Expedition) will not fall below us in this

I can't but think it will be of Service for all the Governments to Enlist as many of their neighbouring Indians as they can, provided they are of a war-like Disposition and Friends to the English Interest

I am with much respect Sir

Your Honour's most Obedient humble Servant

W SHIRLEY

June 8th 1746

since my writing this, which sh^d have been sent by the last post, I hear that the Governm^t of New Hampshire give Encouragem^t for raising 1000 Men there, that Connecticut² has given Encouragem^t for raising

¹ Massachusetts voted 3500 men.

² New Hampshire sent 500 men, and Connecticut 1000. Parkman, *A Half Century of Conflict*, II. 169.

600 Men there, and *as many more as shall voluntarily enlist.*

W S.

The Hon^{ble} WILLIAM GREEN Esq^r

GOVERNOR GREENE TO THE GOVERNOR OF HAVANA.

RHODE ISLAND June 14. 1746

S^r

Upon receiving a Copy of your Excellency's Letter To the Gov^r of Philadelphia in which You complain against John Dennis a Privateer of this Place for makeing Slaves of 22 Free Subjects of the King of Spain,¹ The Government of this Colony have Examined into the Affair and finding that 9 of the Blacks taken in the Galley were brot in here by one of Dennis's Consorts and condemned as Slaves by the Kings Judge of Admiralty without any Blame on the Part of s^d Dennis, They have Ordered them to be Immediately sett at Liberty, and I have wrote to the Gov^r of New York where the Rest were condemned and dare assure y^r Excellency that They also will be restored to their Liberty and Sent Home by the first Opportunity, or as many of them as shall be living. It appears that four of those brought in here have been already sent back to the Havanna, three of them, to wit, Joseph Peraro, Manuel and Mingo

¹ The first mention of this affair, in the Assembly records, occurs in May, 1746, to inquire into the circumstances of the detention of some English prisoners at Havana, evidently as a reprisal. *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 170. Arnold says that twenty-two Spaniards were carried north and sold as slaves, and nineteen of Dennis's crew held as hostages. *History of Rhode Island*, II. 153.

by way of New Providence, the other to wit, Pero, by way of Jamaica: One to wit Ralph Barka is now at Sea but shall be set at liberty on his Arrival, and another, to wit Lawrence, is dead, so that I can only send You 3 by this Flagg of Truce, But I flatter myself Your Excel^y will be hereby fully satisfied of the Honour and Good faith of this Government and I rely on your Equity and Justice to release and Send back the men You have hitherto detained on this Account. Had your Excellency certified to this Governm^t that those Spanish Prisoners were freemen the Cruel Injury you So justly complain of as contrary to the Laws of Nature and Nations had been long since redress'd or had we been truly inform'd or properly apply'd to relating to this affair there had been now no cause of Complaint for nobody can more abhorr and detest such Violence and Injustice

Such Acts of Violence and Injustice thro' the Selfishness of private persons are not among the least Calamities of War But your Excellency may be assured that I shall Endeavour to prevent them for the future and If I find any other persons in the Same Situation shall Cause them to be Restored to their Liberty¹

I am with the Greatest Respect and Esteem
Y^r Excellency's Most humble Serv^t

W G

To DON JUAN FRANZ^o de Inumes &c Harrastitas
Gov^r of the Havanna

¹ The vote for restoring the Spaniards is in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 176.

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR CLINTON.

S^r

You will See by the Inclosed Copy of Letters from Gov^r Thomas and the Gov^r of the Havannah how much it Concerns his Majesties Service that the Spaniards Carried into New York by Cap^t Greenhill (Dennis's Consort) and made Slaves should be forthwith Sent home. Those which were Condemned here by the Judge of Admiralty have been Restored to their Liberty by Order of the Gen^l Assembly and I am Sending them home in a Flag of Truce. I have Ventured To Assure the Spanish Gov^r that Your Excellency will Cause the Rest to be Set at Liberty, And I rely on y^r Compassion to the Unhappy Men so long detained at the Havannah to send as many of the Spanish Prisoners as can be readily found to go home together in the Flag of Truce which I shall dispatch as soon as possible.¹

I am s^r y^r most Ob and Humb Serv^t

W G

To G C Esq^r of New York

GOVERNOR GREENE TO GOVERNOR THOMAS.

S^r

The Gen^l Assembly have ordered all the Spanish prisoners mentioned in the Gov^r of the Havannahs Letter that were made Slaves here to be forthwith Set at Liberty And I am Sending home in a Flag of

¹ See preceding letter, and note.

Truce all that can be found I have likewise wrote To Gov^r Clinton in the most pressing Terms in favour of the Best who were Carried into New York.¹ You may Satisfy the Gov^r of the Havannah that this Governm^t Abhors Such Violence and Injustice And that if he had Certified us those Blacks were Free-men We Should have Set them at Liberty notwithstanding the Judge of Admiralty had Condemned them as Slaves. I doubt not you will as readily Intercede wh him in favour of Dennis's Men he has so long detained and hope y^r Good Offices for them will be as Effectual for their Deliverance as they have ben for those Spanish prisoners

I am s^r &c

To the Hon^l G T. Esq^r
Gov^r of Pensylvania.

GOVERNOR SHIRLEY AND ADMIRAL WARREN TO GOVERNOR
GREENE.

BOSTON July 7. 1746.

Sir,

The Committee of War having represented to Us the difficulties they meet with in purchasing the necessary Supplys of Provisions, that are wanted for the Forces to be employed in the Expedition against Canada, and as We apprehend this Difficulty is in a great measure owing to the prohibition laid by some of the Southern Governments upon the exportation of provisions in order to obtain their own supplys

¹ See the two letters immediately preceding this.

for the same design which by this time may be Completed, We must desire you now to take off said Prohabition if there be any such in your Government, and to forward as much as may be Such Suppys to us as hist Majestys service demands, and you may assure the Coasters that they shall be at free Liberty to return forthwith notwithstanding the Embargo laid upon the Shipping here, and as it is thought expedient, that Such an Embargo shou'd take place here in order to preserve our Seamen for his majestys service, We hope you will likewise judge it necessary to come into the like method within your Governm^t or it will prove fruitless in this,¹ We are Sir,

Your Honours most Obedient humble servants
P WARREN W SHIRLEY

The Hon^{ble} WILL^M GREEN Esq^r

ADMIRAL WARREN TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

BOSTON 16th July 1746

Sir

I have the Honour of yours, dated the 11th ² by the Post, and wish that your Government could have raisd a full Regiment of one Thousand Men for the Expedition now on foot against Canada; This would have given your Colony great credit, and your Hon-

¹ Greene's answer to this letter is printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 187.

² Probably that printed in *Col. Rec. of R. I.*, V. 183. The date was omitted from the draught.

our an opportunity of appointing a Colonel, and all the proper Field Officers to it. As you observe the Number of your Privateers, to be sure, takes up many Men,¹ but I concieve they resort to you from all the Colonys, and too often from his Majesty's ships; I am very sensible they do great service, but were they now restrained from their private Pursuits, and encourag^d to engage in the intended Enterprize, an Addition by that means might be made to your Quota, and it woud look better, as upon the Success of this Expedition depends so much the well being of all his Majesty's Dominions, especially in America. Surely if the French were in our situation, upon this Continent, and We in theirs, they woud not leave one of us upon it in six Months, and why our Colonies shoud any of them hesitate one moment about any Expence, shoud it even fall upon them, I cant account for, but I dont suppose it will, as We are told from England the Expence of the late Expedition was under the Consideration of Parliament and great Room to believe the Colonys woud be reimbursed. Their all is now at Stake, and future Generations will have the greatest Reason to blame the Conduct of the Present, if they dont embrace so glorious a Prospect as they now have to extirpate a most troublesome Enemy, who will probably grow more formidable to our Posterity, than they are at present to us. I presume you will think of sending the Forces you have raised to Nantasket, as soon as possible, under the Care of your Colony

¹ Greene says, in his letter referred to above, "more than three thousand" Rhode Island men were in arms.

Sloop, to take the Benefit of the Convoy that will go with the Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut Troops, to the Rendezvous at Louisbourg

The Men you mention that were raised for the Vigilant upon the Faith of your Governments are all discharged, except a very few now out in the Chester, whose Captain (as the Kings Service would not admit of my parting with them without getting Men in their Room) is ordered to change them into any Vessel he may, during his Cruise, meet with, bound to such of the Colonys as they may be desirous of going to, and I have also directed him for their Encouragement, to pay them their Wages, as I have done all the others, a thing I dare say never done before, and what I flatter my self will convince your Legislature, that I have taken the greatest Care to keep their faith with those Volunteers inviolable, and I hope they will be assured that I shall upon all Occasions demonstrate myself a well Wisher to the Colony of Road Island, by doing it every good Office in my power

I am with great Regard Sir

Your most Obedient Humble Servant

P WARREN

You will please as a Distinction from the others to order all the Vessells you send upon the Expedition to Wear a broad blew Vane, with a large white Ball in it, at their main Topmasts or Top Gall^t Mastheads

The Hon^{ble} Govern^r. GREEN

RICHARD PARTRIDGE TO GOVERNOR GREENE.

LONDON 5th month or July 26th 1746*Gov^r. Green*

Understanding thou art again Elected Gov^r of the Colony of Rhod Island &c^a I now address my Self to thee to inform thee that I have some time since sent over the Order of the King in Council under the Privy Seal for establishing the Boundarys which has been so long depending with the Massach^{ts} agreeable to the Judgm^t of the Lords Committee in xber. 1744. and also duplicates of the same which I hope will gett safe to hand and be very acceptable to the Colony and wherein I may say I left no stone unturned to bring that Affair to so good an Issue.

As for the Acco^t of the Colonys Charge and Expence relating to Cape Breton the same with my Petition to the King has been (on a Refference) under the Consideration of a Committee of Lords of the Council and now I have the Satisfaction to tell thee that they have agreed to Report back to the King in our favour and to propose that he wou'd be pleas'd to recommend it to Parliam^t at the beginning of the next Sessions together with the Massachu^{ts} Demand and that in the mean time the Several Demands may be referrd to some proper persons to liquidate them.¹ but I am told its likely that it will be upwards of a Year yet before the money will be paid however I intend duely to pursue it, and if you have a further Subsequent Charge lett me have it in time duely

¹ See the following document.

proved and Authenicated to carry into Parliament to be added to our first Acco^t and as there will be an absolute necessity of Expence for this and paying my Solicitor his former Bill of Costs &c^a I earnestly intreat that Remittances may be made me with all Expedition and which I pray thou wouldst be so kind as to recommend to the House of Representatives that I may be encouraged Chearfully to pursue the Affairs of the Colony under my Care.

I have not yet had a Plan of your Fortification sent me over w^{ch} was required by the Ministry here and which I wrote for some time since; till that comes nothing can be further done in obtaining a Grant for the Stores required — I was very lately at the Office of Ordnance and am informed of the same there.¹

As for Publick News the Warr with France and Spain continues still, but as the King of Spain is lately deceased it is thought that Circumstances will in time prove an advantage to this Kingdom. the Rebellion now seems to be quelled and pretty well over, and the Governm^t are now busyed in the Tryal of the Rebels of whom several Officers are already Condemned. for the I refer to the Prints herewith sent and remain, with due Respects to thy Self and the Gentlemen of the Council

Thy and Their faithfull Friend,

RICH^d PARTRIDGE

My Brother in Law Belcher is by the King ap-

¹ See Greene's letter of August 1, 1746.

pointed Gov^r of New Jersey in the room of Gov^r Morris dec^d and kissd his hand for it the 22^d Inst :

To The Governour and Com^pany
of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence
Plantations
New England

WILLIAM SHARPE TO RICHARD PARTRIDGE,¹

WHITEHALL 17 June 1746

Dear Sir

I took care of yo^r Petition during your absence, — and have the Satisfaction to tell you that the Lords have agreed to report to the King in your favour, and to propose that his Majesty would be pleased to recommend it to Parliam^t at the beginning of the next Sessions, together with the Massachusets Demand, And that in the mean time the several Demands may be referrd to some proper persons to liquidate them, I am most truely

D^r S^r yo^r very obed^t Servant

W : SHARPE

¹ Enclosed with letter of July 26, 1746.

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